

Ice hockey – Khristich quits Capitals



Dmitri Khristich, former coach to
Edinburgh Capitals

Edinburgh Capitals and their head coach Dmitri Khristich have parted company.

The Ukrainian-born former National Hockey League player replaced Michael Dobron.

And he was charged with getting the club to the play-offs.

Khristich believes his decision to leave may revitalise the club.

The coach said: “This is a results business and, right now, the results speak for themselves.

“I’ve been involved in hockey for a long time and I know that sometimes a new approach can kick-start a team.”

He added: “I’m hoping my departure will help the club to improve its fortunes during the remainder of the season.”

Edinburgh are currently bottom of the 12-strong Elite League with only three wins in 24 games.

Captain Mike D’Orazio has agreed to join assistant coach Jock Hay in guiding the Capitals. They will share coaching duties.

Scotland's most promising start-up businesses awarded £1.1 million from Scottish EDGE

Thirteen of the country's most promising entrepreneurs have pitched their way to a share in a £1.1 million prize pot in the Scottish EDGE Round 11 Final.

✖ Twenty two finalists, chosen from over 242 applicants from throughout the country, had just three minutes to pitch their business plans to an expert panel of judges made up of Rob Jones of FanDuel, Jo Bucci of People's Postcode Lottery, Andy Lothian of Insights, Petra Wetzel of West Brewery and Majella O'Boyle of Royal Bank of Scotland.

Each of the thirteen winners, stood out for their potential to scale quickly and disrupt the market with impressive innovation.

One of the night's winners, Anna Devitt of DirectDevitt became the first recipient of the Creative EDGE award, a special Creative Industries award introduced this round. Presenting the award, Rachael Brown of Cultural Enterprise Office said: "at Cultural Enterprise Office we believe that Scotland can be the best place to create, scale and grow a creative career or business. Scotland is a vibrant and creative nation, we always have been. Together with our Creative EDGE partners, Creative Scotland and Scottish EDGE, we are proud and delighted to present the first ever Creative EDGE award to DirectDevitt, a business with a true blend of social purpose and creativity."

Clive Gillman, Director of Creative Industries, Creative Scotland, said: "This has been a really exciting process that

has allowed us to see smart creative ideas to be turned into businesses that have the power to transform the lives of many people. I've been really pleased to have the opportunity to see first-hand the skills, ambitions and creative purpose embodied in everyone who has taken part. Huge congratulations to Anna and I'm sure that all of these businesses will be winners in their own fields, and we look forward to seeing them all thrive in the future."

The Higgs EDGE prize, a special award for high scale potential STEM focused businesses, went to uFraction8, a spin-out from Heriot Watt University, taking home £100,000 after impressing the panel with their ambition to commercialise new liquid particle processing technology.

Also announced were the winners of Young EDGE, for entrepreneurs under the age of 30, and Wild Card EDGE for businesses who have yet to commence trading. The winners from each of these categories received a share of the allocated £100,000 budget, with seventeen receiving the maximum amount of £10,000 grant funding.

As the UK's largest funding competition, Scottish EDGE is awarded as a 40% grant and a 60% loan, with a maximum award of up to £150,000. The loan is paid back to help fellow entrepreneurs on their pathway to success. In addition, Scottish EDGE provides mentoring, training and access to professional support.

Scottish EDGE CEO, Evelyn McDonald said: "The calibre of businesses we've seen pitching today has been exceptional and our judges had their work cut out deciding who should be awarded funding. We received a total of 242 applications for Scottish EDGE round eleven from around the country, representing businesses in every sector. The twenty two businesses who pitched today demonstrated a commitment and intense desire to grow their business and create jobs and wealth for Scotland and I believe many will achieve this."

Sir Tom Hunter, renowned Scottish entrepreneur and supporter of Scottish EDGE, said: "I love seeing entrepreneurs pitch an idea which they are incredibly passionate about, and attending the Scottish EDGE final is a real highlight for me for that very reason. Through EDGE we're seeing a renewed spirit of entrepreneurship developing in Scotland, heeding our nation's proud tradition as innovators. This is not just about money however, all entrants, win or lose, receive support packages to help them on their way and come back again to EDGE when they are ready to do so."

Gordon Merrylees, Head of Entrepreneurship for Royal Bank of Scotland said: "Congratulations to all of the winners for emerging victorious from such an impressive group of finalists. We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Scottish Government and the Hunter Foundation to continue to support entrepreneurial talent, develop Scottish EDGE and breathe life into entrepreneurship across Scotland. The 263 winners from rounds one to ten have, thus far, generated an additional £79.78 million in turnover, secured £87.87 million in additional investment, and created 1,204 jobs. We're delighted with this progress and look forward to continued success as today's winners join our ever-growing group of high-achieving entrepreneurial alumni."

The Edinburgh area's Scottish EDGE winners are:

BUBLBag: Producer of inflatable packaging products which provide maximum product protection cost effectively. Amount £25,000 | Location: Fife

Industrial Nature: Manufacturers of a range of innovative, low cost, insulating construction products made from left-over crop materials. Amount: £97,000 | Location: Edinburgh

Sansible Wearables: Creator of LiveSkin, a wearable sensor to aid decision making following force impact in contact sports. Amount: £50,000 | Location: Edinburgh

Higgs EDGE Special Award Winner

uFraction8: Creating design solutions for the biomanufacturing/processing industry using new microfluidics based technology. Amount: £100,000 | Location: Falkirk

lil'POP: The Healthy Crop specialises in all things sorghum! Sorghum is a nutrient-rich, gluten-free, and drought resilient crop! Introducing this wonderful ancient grain to the UK with their first product, lil'POP: popped sorghum. Amount: £10,000 | Location: Edinburgh

Casta Spes Technologies: CST is currently developing the Heliwheel, a recreational product that comprises of a self-stabilising wheel and camera attachment. Amount: £10,000 | Location: Edinburgh

Kingdom Scotland: Scotland's First Luxury and Creative Fragrance House, working with a Scottish master perfumer to bottle the essence of Scotland in high-end perfumes. Amount: £10,000 | Location: Edinburgh

Seltza: A disruptive trendsetter that produces unsweetened soft drinks. Seltza also produces carbonated soft drinks that provide an alternative to traditional soft drinks and mixers. Amount: £10,000 | Location: Fife

The Young EDGE Winners are:

The Herbivore Kitchen: The Herbivore Kitchen is a vegetarian and vegan friendly café which offers a mail-order brownie service and also hosts a five course vegan dinner every month called "The Herbivore Supper Club". Amount: £7,000 | Location: Edinburgh

Alterwaste Ltd: A specialist in sustainable foodservice disposables and packaging made from industrial waste products, currently focusing on its product "Colleggtion" – turning eggshell waste into compostable disposable packaging. Amount:

£10,000 | Location: Edinburgh

GETGUIDED: A b2b online marketplace connecting travel suppliers (Hotels and DMCs) with local experienced tour guides and tour guide companies. Amount: £10,000 | Location: Edinburgh

Hemp Eyewear: Designs and manufactures the world's first plant fibre eyewear. Using a leading edge sustainable technology, used by BMW and Mercedes cars, Hemp Eyewear has pioneered what it claims to be the most innovative frame in the industry. Amount: £10,000 | Location: Edinburgh

MicroSpray Technologies: MicroSpray Technologies' mission is to revolutionise ultra-fine particle manufacturing for pharmaceutical and research industries using an innovative, simple and cost-effective spray technology. Amount: £4,000 | Location: Edinburgh

Oddity Innovations: A product design company with the aim of bringing innovative and unique products to market. The first innovation from Oddity is "pkt", the reliable and efficient packaging solution for the parcel networks. Amount: £5,000 | Location: Denny.

Image courtesy of Sandy Young Photography

EDINBURGH'S TREASURED MUSEUMS & GALLERIES SHOWCASED ON NEW WEBSITE



Museums & Galleries Edinburgh, the collection of 14 venues owned and managed by the City of Edinburgh Council, has a new website designed to inspire residents and visitors through rich stories and beautiful imagery.

Highlights and hidden gems of the city's collections will be brought to life and showcased through engaging, new content with top tips and guides on how best to discover and explore each venue, many of which are free to enter.

In a new collaborative partnership coordinated by Marketing Edinburgh, the newly launched website www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk will provide detailed information on the city's much-loved museums, galleries and monuments including; Museum of Edinburgh, People's Story, Writers' Museum, City Art Centre, Scott Monument and Lauriston Castle.

Showcasing Edinburgh's art and its history through 220,000 diverse objects, many of which have been recognised by the Scottish Government as being of national importance, Museums & Galleries Edinburgh also cares for 200 historic monuments in the capital.

Together, the venues welcome approximately 800,000 visitors each year, either residents or locals exploring their story and art, or visitors keen to discover the city from near and far.



Nelson Monument on
Calton Hill

The new website is full of clear information to help people navigate the beautiful A and B listed venues and their series of events and exhibitions. The rich knowledge and experience of curators and staff will be showcased alongside beautiful imagery of the collections, blogs and stories to inspire people to visit and explore further.

The new website allows people to browse for art, gifts and memorabilia to buy online with Art UK, or to donate to support the continued conservation and exhibition of the Museums & Galleries Edinburgh collection.

For the first time, visitors will be able to book tickets to events and exhibitions online.

This new website will enable everyone to explore the collections in a fifteenth venue, online.

Commissioned by Museums & Galleries Edinburgh the website has been designed and delivered by Tincan, whose other clients across arts and charities have included National Theatre, the Institute of Contemporary Arts, Homeless Link, Young Vic, Sir John Soane Museum and Mall Galleries.

Museums & Galleries Edinburgh are the following venues and collections:

- City Art Centre: One of the premier gallery spaces in the heart of the city, housing one of the best collections of Scottish art. Visitors can enjoy a varied range of exhibitions from throughout the world including favourites from the City's nationally recognised collection.
- Lauriston Castle: Step inside this Edwardian villa to see life just as it was in 1926.
- Museum Collections Centre: This centre houses the reserve collections of the city museums and galleries.
- Museum of Childhood: Visitors enjoy a trip down memory lane and learn about children of the past. Reopening in Spring 2018.
- Museum of Edinburgh: Discover more about Edinburgh's history, its people, crafts, trades and the beautiful objects they created.

- Nelson Monument: Erected in 1807 and built in memory of Admiral Lord Nelson. Reach the top by climbing the 143 steps and enjoy panoramic views of the capital
- People's Story: Explore the lives of Edinburgh's ordinary people at work and play from the late 18th century to today.
- Queensferry Museum: Learn about the construction of the Forth Rail and Road Bridges and more.
- Scott Monument: Learn about Sir Walter Scott and the monument itself. Climb 287 steps and enjoy views of Edinburgh and the surrounding countryside.
- Travelling Gallery: A custom-built mobile art gallery which brings contemporary art exhibitions to schools and communities throughout Scotland.
- Writers' Museum: Celebrating the lives of three great Scottish writers – Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson.
- Trinity Apse: a spectacular gothic kirk in the heart of the old town (venue hire only)
- Makar's Court: an evolving national literary monument where you can see some of the famous words of great Scottish writers inscribed in the flagstones
- City Observatory Complex (currently closed for refurbishment)
- The collection also includes 200 historic monuments and statues located throughout the city

The new Museums & Galleries Edinburgh website is now live:
www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk



'A Fine Line' Photo Call. City Arts Centre, Edinburgh,

16th Nov. 2017

Brian Healy, Director of Business Development with Tincan said: “We are really engaged with and enjoyed the challenge of finding a way of presenting 14 different venues, together, coherently under one umbrella site. A major test for us was to create a new platform for accessible, inspiring content that would appeal to both visitors new to the city as well as local and regional audiences who might want to engage with more in-depth, detailed content and discover something new in their city.

“The project was a neat challenge in terms of design and user experience but helping to shine a light on both the highlights and hidden gems that Edinburgh has to offer was a real pleasure for us.”

Councillor Donald Wilson, Culture and Communities Convener, said: “Like a brand-new gallery space, this new website will let visitors immerse themselves in the beauty and history of Edinburgh, no matter where they are in the world.

“Edinburgh is city which is of course renowned for its culture and art and with 14 venues, 200 monuments and 220,000 objects in our care, there is no shortage to the stories and content we’ll be able to share.

“We hope the new website will expose our venues and events to new audiences, and provide a space for people to learn about Edinburgh, thanks to the many artworks and objects in the city’s care.”

John Donnelly, Chief Executive Marketing Edinburgh said: “As the official destination marketing organisation for the city, it made perfect sense for Marketing Edinburgh to step forward and support City of Edinburgh Council in its ambition to raise awareness to Museum & Galleries Edinburgh’s diverse collection of venues, collections, monuments and exhibitions.

“Over the last year, we’ve worked closely with the Museum & Galleries Edinburgh team to implement a marketing and business strategy that will drive additional footfall while strengthening an important commercial revenue stream, all of which is reinvested back into the city’s cultural offering. Following a subtle rebrand in 2016, the new website is a core element of that strategy, revealing the perfect digital shop window to showcase the rich variety of locations, artworks and curiosities that Museum & Galleries Edinburgh manage and maintain on behalf of its city residents. We are effectively creating what will be the 15th venue.”

Edinburgh Student Housing Cooperative’s big day out

With a couple of buses borrowed from Rabbie’s, some free tickets for Edinburgh Castle and Edinburgh’s Christmas a great day out was organised by Edinburgh Students Housing Cooperative for 30 refugees last weekend.



Paul and Liam along with some of the members of the Edinburgh Students Housing Coop who organised the day out.

The people on the day trip were mainly from Syria and Sudan with a few other nationalities in the mix. But they had all enjoyed their visit to Edinburgh’s Christmas, Edinburgh Castle and the hot chocolate was a real high point.

Paul Gibson of the coop explained that he and his flatmates at the Edinburgh Students Housing Cooperative had all ensured that the day went without a hitch. When we met the group they

were all having a meal prepared by the members of the Coop at the Barclay Viewforth Church.

Paul is a member of the Cooperative which has a building next to the church on Bruntsfield Links and a student of physical theatre at Summerhall, but in his spare time he decided to drive for Rabbie's.

Paul said : "While the country is in a state of flux and things are changing, people are empowering themselves on a local level. I think everyone who lives here should feel like a citizen and they should have the right to be a part of something and be integrated. So this was an easy way to try and achieve that. I really went to work for Rabbie's because I could do stuff like this. This is an easy way to bring people together. I organised a day out earlier in the year, but we would like to do it more regularly.

"I knew about a group called the Unity Centre in Glasgow who do incredible things. They do a lot of work about integration and access for information. The people who came on the trip today are part of an Arabic-English language group.





Paul and Liam along with some of the members of the Edinburgh Students Housing Coop who organised the day out.

And it certainly looked as if everyone was having a good time when we caught up with them all at the end of the afternoon!

People from many countries brought together by an Arabic-

English language group were invited by the coop to Edinburgh for a fun day out. You can hear what some of them had to say here. We should say that while there were women in the group they were just reluctant to talk to us on camera, but they wanted to say that they were all enjoying themselves too!

What's on at the Filmhouse today

Fancy getting away from the Christmas party season? There's lots to see at the Filmhouse this week. But, yes some of it has a Christmas theme!

Human Flow Director Ai Weiwei: Over 65 million people worldwide have been displaced from their homes due to conflict, the greatest number since World War II. *Human Flow* makes an ambitious attempt to try to capture the staggering scale of this crisis and understand its profound impact on humanity. Run time: 140 minutes, certificate 12A. Screenings 19-20 December.



The Party Director Sally Potter: Potter weaves comedy and tragedy in this compelling drama. Janet (Kristin Scott Thomas) has just been appointed to a key ministerial position in the shadow cabinet. She and her husband Bill (Timothy Spall) plan to celebrate this with a few close friends. As the guests arrive, the party takes an unexpected turn when Bill suddenly makes some shocking revelations. Run time: 71 minutes, certificate 15. 19 December only.



Thelma directed by Joachim Trier: In a fascinating coming-of-age drama, with elements of the supernatural, Trier creates a memorable story about Thelma, who escapes her rigidly religious family and suffers a seizure triggered by her powerful feelings for Anja, a fellow student at the University of Oslo. Run time: 116 minutes, certificate 15. Screenings 19-21 December.



White Christmas directed by Michael Curtiz: In this Christmas classic, two singers (Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye) team up with a sister act (Rosemary Clooney and Vera Ellen) to make one of the greatest duos in show business. The soundtrack features Irving Berlin classics, such as "White Christmas" and "Blue Skies". 120 minutes, certificate U. Screenings 19-21 December.



For more information, follow this [link](#).

Speed limit on Queensferry Crossing raised to 70 mph from today

The speed limit on the Queensferry Crossing has now been raised to 70 mph.

All work has now been done to ensure that the traffic using the bridge can travel at higher speeds as planned.

This is regarded as a key milestone in the delivery of the benefits from the £1.35 billion investment in improving the reliability of cross-Forth travel.

As is usual the government has begun a consultation on the designation of the Queensferry Crossing and its connecting roads as a motorway and when this process is complete in the new year, motorway regulations will come in to force.

In addition, the Intelligent Transport System is on schedule to be operational in the new year across the entire scheme.



The final touches being put to the Queensferry Crossing in August, 2017

Photo : Ian Jacobs

In advance of these final steps, a guide will be published providing all necessary information about traffic using the two bridges, the Queensferry Crossing and the Forth Road Bridge once the new traffic regulations are in force.

The guide is intended to give the full variety of users and drivers of different vehicle classes the information they will need.

Commenting, Transport Minister Humza Yousaf said: “It is pleasing to be able to deliver on our commitment to have a 70 mph speed limit on the Queensferry Crossing before the end of December.

“All of the work that was required in order to make this move has been successfully completed and the bridge will have a speed limit of 70 mph.

“Since the initial study in 2007 the objective of this project has been to provide a replacement for the Forth Road Bridge. As such the Queensferry Crossing does not increase capacity over the Forth and we still expect congestion at peak times.

We hope the move to a 70 mph speed limit will assist the scheme in operating as it was designed and has a positive impact on overall journey times.

“The new bridge provides a more resilient crossing for business and communities as shown during Storm Caroline, when the bridge remained open to HGVs and buses, where the Forth Road Bridge would have had restrictions in place. This ensured we avoided any lengthy delays and diversions across the Forth and associated impacts on the surrounding local roads.

“In the new year motorway regulations and the public transport corridor will come into force, as well the Intelligent Transport System becoming fully operational. As the entire £1.35 billion scheme comes online the original aims of encouraging public transport use, increasing safety and smoothing traffic will begin to be realised.”

Whisky sales break the records in Edinburgh

Bonhams Whisky department in Edinburgh has recorded its most successful year ever, with total sales of £919,000.



Martin Green with the Dalmore 50 year-old which sold for £26,250 in December 2017

The auction house held its first whisky sale in 2008, and now holds sales four times a year at its Queen Street HQ as well as four sales in Hong Kong, including its first-ever online

only sale.



Ahead of the June sale Martin Green has a good look at what will be sold.

Bonhams Whisky specialist in Edinburgh, Martin Green told us : “2017 has been a bumper year for Bonhams whisky sales in Scotland.

“Since we started selling whisky at auction in 2008, the market has grown steadily year on year, but 2017 has been exceptional. We are undoubtedly benefitting from the global interest in collecting whiskies which is now very much an international pursuit.

“We have regular bidders from all over the world, including China, Hong Kong, Singapore Japan and Taiwan, all the countries of mainland Europe, north and south America as well, of course, as Scotland and the rest of the UK.”



Martin Green checks on the contents before the Bonhams Whisky Sale on 4 October 2017

Top results at Bonhams Edinburgh in 2017 include:

- Dalmore-50 year old-1926 sold for £26,250 in December 2017
- The Bowmore Trilogy: Black Bowmore-42 yearold-1964 Gold Bowmore-44 year old-1964 White Bowmore-43 year old-1964 sold for £25,000 also in December 2017
- The Macallan Millennium Decanter 50 year old 1949 sold for £21,250 in June 2017
- The Macallan Select Reserve-25 year old – 1946 sold for £15,625 in October 2017



Port Ellen distillery closed in 1983 and the

whisky has become sought after in the collecting world.


Edinburgh Welcomes Tesco Bank Art Competition for Schools Roadshow

✖ Last week, Stenhouse Primary School enjoyed a fun-filled day of art as the Tesco Bank Art Competition for Schools arrived in Edinburgh.

Primary six students at the Edinburgh school got involved in the creative sessions led by the National Galleries of Scotland education team. The workshop focused on charcoal and inks using techniques including collage, frottage, brushed chalk and wet-on-wet splatters to create a wonderful tree full of birds. These workshops are designed to help more schools get involved in the competition, and bring Scotland's national collection to children across Scotland. The theme for this occasion was inspired by two paintings, Saint Bride by John Duncan and Yellow Birds in the Tree by Scottie Wilson.

The Competition, which is run by the National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) and supported by Tesco Bank, attracts thousands of entries every year from children across Scotland. Using the themes provided by the Competition which vary dependent on age, the children can create their own completely unique artwork. Children from nursery age all the way through to S3

are able to take part making the Competition hugely accessible. Last year alone more than 7,900 children entered, and in total more than 47,000 young artists have been inspired by the Competition since the partnership began in 2011.

The annual exhibition of winning entries starts in the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and moves on to tour in specially-chosen sites across Scotland. The exhibition provides a much-deserved opportunity for some very talented young people to showcase their work in public. On top of this last year's winners also received art materials, vouchers and workshops for their schools 

Linda McClelland, Playfair Co-ordinator at National Galleries of Scotland, said:

“The travelling roadshows give us a wonderful opportunity to visit schools all over Scotland meeting children and their teachers. After exploring some of the rich treasures of art held within our national collection it is exciting to watch the children produce their own work inspired by what they have seen. Travel costs can make a visit to the National Galleries of Scotland impossible for many schools so these kinds of touring workshops are invaluable in support of art education today and we are grateful to Tesco Bank for their support in making it happen.”

Gillian Fairweather, Community Manager at Tesco Bank, added:

“We are very excited that the Tesco Bank Art Competition for Schools was able to bring the national collection to Stenhouse Primary School today, and that the workshop gave pupils the chance to unleash their artistic skills. It's a pleasure to partner with the National Galleries of Scotland and work together to give thousands of children the opportunity to showcase their creative talents. We really hope the children enjoyed today's workshop and are inspired to enter the competition.”

Norwegian portrays Jane Austen as its new tail fin hero

Norwegian has chosen British author Jane Austen to become its latest 'tail fin hero'.



The renowned author's portrait will grace the tail fin of a Norwegian Dreamliner aircraft, as 2017 marked the 200th anniversary of her death.

The airline has always used iconic figures to decorate the tail fins of its distinctive aircraft. It usually chooses personalities who symbolise the airline's spirit by pushing boundaries, challenging the norm and inspiring others.

To reflect Norwegian's rapid growth in the UK, where it now flies 5 million UK passengers each year to more than 50 destinations, the airline is rolling out a series of British tail fin heroes.

Jane Austen will become Norwegian's sixth British tail fin hero, following the announcement of rock legend Freddie Mercury, footballer Bobby Moore, children's author Roald Dahl, pioneering pilot Amy Johnson and aviation maverick Sir Freddie Laker.

Jane Austen, one of the world's most famous authors, born on

16th December 1775, spent most of her life in the historic and beautiful county of Hampshire. Its houses, countryside and people provided the inspiration for many of her novels. It was during her time in the quiet village of Chawton that she wrote and revised six of her most famous novels – Sense & Sensibility, Pride & Prejudice and Northanger Abbey, and wrote Mansfield Park, Emma and Persuasion. It wasn't until 1810 that her first novel Sense & Sensibility was accepted for publishing by Thomas Egerton.

Norwegian's Chief Commercial Officer Thomas Ramdahl said: "As Norwegian continues its rapid expansion in the UK, our 'tail fin heroes' offer us a perfect chance to pay tribute to some of the greatest Britons of all time. Jane Austen has inspired generations and as the world celebrates her bicentenary it is a huge honour to have one of the greatest authors of all time adorn our aircraft."

The portrait of Jane Austen, which will be used to adorn the tail of a Norwegian aircraft, has been taken from a late nineteenth-century engraving, commissioned by Jane Austen's nephew. The engraving is based upon National Portrait Gallery London's pencil and watercolour sketch of Jane Austen, by her sister and closest confidante Cassandra Austen in 1810.

The Jane Austen tail fin will take to the skies next summer when it will adorn a Norwegian Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft.

For more information visit www.norwegian.com/uk

Brain injury video wins major

prize

An Edinburgh charity has won a prestigious prize for a video which explains the impact of brain injury.

Members from brain injury charity Edinburgh Headway Group won first prize winner at the UKABIF short film awards for their video, *Nothing Short of a Lifeline*.

The emotive video, which was created using the powerful experiences from brain injury survivors, their carers and loved ones, sheds light on just how lives and futures can be altered in an instant as a result of sustaining a brain injury.

Ann Dow's husband Gilbert sustained a traumatic brain injury after a stroke in 2008 on New Year's Day.

She said: "I was upstairs and Gilbert was bringing me a cup of tea. I heard a crash and I thought he had just dropped the cup, but when I went to investigate he was lying at the bottom of the stairs.

"Since then our lives have been completely different and I have had to become his full-time carer. I have lost my soulmate of over 30 years and it has been very hard to come to terms with.

"You can get quite low. It is heartbreaking and depressing, but Edinburgh Headway Group has been there for both me and Bert."

Ann, 70, from Edinburgh's Stenhouse area, said: "Brain injuries are often misunderstood and people don't realise how isolating it can be for people and their family."

Michelle Keenan, chief executive officer of Edinburgh Headway Group, said: "The experiences of those affected by brain

injury are unique but, with the right help and support at the right time, there can be life afterwards.”

Barber students making homeless happy



Back row: Edinburgh College Barbering students (back row) Danielle Laird, Christina Gibbs, C J Leslie, Emma Thomson, Lauren Mason, (front row) lecturer Claire Duncan, Stuart Galloway and Jackie Graham

Edinburgh College students have swapped the hairdressing salon for homeless shelters in the city.

It is part of a project offering free haircuts to homeless people this Christmas.

Students have been cutting the hair of residents at two hostels, the Pleasance and Cunningham House.

The project expands students' learning, giving them experience of working with a more diverse group of clients.


It also promotes citizenship by giving them the opportunity to make a difference in their communities.

And the project has encouraged discussions between students and clients about issues such as family displacement, poverty, the consequences of wars, famine, and political refugees as well as the social, economic and environmental effect homelessness has on communities.

Barbering student Paul Griffiths said: "There is nothing better than making someone happy by changing the way they look."

Amanda Wilson, assistant support worker at The Salvation Army's Pleasance Lifehouse, said: "It is amazing that something most people take for granted can have such a positive effect on the life of someone experiencing homelessness."

Magdala Crescent to be closed this week

 Magdala Crescent will be closed for three days from tomorrow Tuesday 19 December 2017.

The closure will allow urgent road resurfacing works to take place at the junction of Magdala Crescent and Haymarket Terrace.

A diversion via Haymarket Terrace and Coates Gardens will be in place during this time. You are asked to follow all signs which will be in place.

This work is separate from Scottish Water's major project at Haymarket Terrace and they are taking this opportunity to complete this resurfacing whilst the Haymarket project is on hold over the festive period.

Scott Fraser, Scottish Water's corporate affairs regional manager, said: "The road closure is essential while we carry out this important work and we will do all we can to complete it as quickly as possible."

“I would like to thank affected residents and road users in advance for their patience and understanding.”

Edinburgh to Sofia direct with easyjet

On Saturday the first flight in the new easyJet service between Edinburgh and Sofia began operating opening up Bulgaria's capital and biggest city to passengers.



This is the beginning of a twice weekly service which will operate on Tuesdays and Saturdays offering more choice to and from Scotland's busiest airport.

Chief Executive of Edinburgh Airport Gordon Dewar said: “The beginning of this route is another positive step for Scotland's busiest airport as we add another city to our roster, which is already impressive.

“Sofia's stunning scenery and slopes will cater for those looking for a city break as well as avid skiers, and easyJet have again shown foresight in working with us to provide this for passengers.”

Ali Gayward, UK Country Manager for easyJet said: “We are delighted to be launching this new route which we are sure will prove popular for our Scottish customers looking to explore Europe and discover a new ski and city destination this winter.

“easyJet remains committed to providing easy and affordable connections serving Scotland by offering customers low fares

and a convenient schedule for both leisure and business travellers.”

Magnificent Hibs overcome Italian giants Naples at Easter Road



November marks the 50th anniversary of arguably the greatest European night in the history of Hibernian Football Club.

The Inter Cities Fairs Cup was the idea of Swiss pools supremo Ernst Thommen, Ottorino Barassi from Italy and English FA Secretary Stanley Rouss to promote international trade fairs.

Hibs were drawn against Italian giants Naples who at the time of the game were domestic league leaders. they also had two world class players in their ranks, goalkeeper Dino Zoff who would later captain his country to a World Cup victory and Brazilian genius Jose Altafini.

Despite losing 4-1 in the first leg in Naples, Hibs had been far from outclassed and had been the better side for large parts of the opening period.

To add insult to injury however when Hibs were in Italy, sterling was devalued by 14% and they were unable to pay their hotel bill !

Not even the most optimistic fan gave Hibs any chance of

overturning the scoreline in Edinburgh apart from manager Bob Shankly who was convinced that not only would his team win the return leg but that they would go through to the next round.

Just before the second leg, Hibs received a huge confidence boost with the news that the Altafini would not be travelling to Edinburgh due to a minor injury picked up the previous weekend.

Because of what was thought to be an unassailable lead, the Naples manager decided not to risk his star striker.

21,037 fans paid to watch the game and within five minutes Hibs took the lead when right back Bobby Duncan collected the ball on the half way line, evaded a couple of tackles and fired in a sensational left foot drive from 35 yards which flew high into the corner of the net.

Hibs mounted attack after attack and Peter Cormack was brought down inside the penalty box but the referee inexplicably awarded an indirect free kick. Zoff produced a superb save from a Pat Stanton header and Blanchi cleared an overhead kick from Colin Stein off the line.

Just before the break however Hibs added a second when Zoff was unable to hold a Stein strike and Pat Quinn was on hand to stroke the ball into the empty net.

The second half was played at a pulsating pace with the home side playing down the famous old slope toward the Cowshed which was packed with expectant Hibs fans.

In the 67th minute, Peter Cormack met an Alex Scott corner to increase Hibs lead to send the home supporters in the huge crowd into a frenzy.

While the celebrations were in full swing Scott sent over a cross to the far post and Stanton was on hand to head the ball into the net.

The Hibs fans were singing 'Easy Easy' which infuriated the Naples players and with 15 minutes remaining, full back Gerardo was sent off after a reckless tackle on Eric Stevenson.

A few minutes later the Italian's misery was complete when Stein intercepted a clearance before going through to score a fifth goal to give his side a famous victory and the Hibs players a well deserved lap of honour at the end before their ecstatic supporters.

Alan McGraw who played in both legs told the Edinburgh Reporter: "In Italy the heat was unbelievable. Before the game we were all given a bunch of flowers by our opponents. None of us knew what to do with them so someone told us to throw them to the crowd but there was a moat round the pitch so they all ended up in the water.

"They beat us 4-1 but the score flattered them. The only difference between the teams was their striker Altifini who had unbelievable speed. Naples presented us with silver musical cigarette boxes afterwards.

"Bob Shankly told the press that the tie wasn't over but no-one believed him although when we found out they had left Altifini at home we were confident of progressing and we did, winning 5-0.

"That night was the highlight of my time at the club. Bobby Duncan scored early with a great goal and we were 3-0 up at half time leaving the Naples players shocked. We just kept going and never eased up. I don't imagine Dino Zoff conceded five goals very often but there was nothing he could do about any of them. After the game I remember one of their players kicking the dressing room door."

The teams that day were as follows:

Hibernian: Wilson; Duncan, Davis, Stanton, Madsen, McGraw,

Scott, Quinn, Stein, Cormack and Stevenson

Napoli: Zoff; Narota, Fagliana, Zuritini, Fanzanato, Bianchi, Cane, Giuliano, Orlando, Montefusco (Substitute: Girardo) and Barison

13-year-old boy taken to hospital after being struck by car on Colinton Road



A 13-year-old boy was taken to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary after being struck by a Citroen car on Colinton Road near Craiglockhart Avenue at about 8.10am this morning.

His injuries are not thought to be serious.

The driver of the Citroen has been charged with running a red light whilst a lorry that was parked near the scene of the incident have been ticketed and the driver charged with obstructing traffic lights.

The road was closed in both directions for over 30 minutes.

A spokeswoman for Police Scotland said: "The male driver of the Citroen and the male driver an articulated lorry, which was parked on the eastbound carriageway, have been charged in connection with this and issued with a fixed penalty ticket."

Witness appeal following attempted robbery in Bruntsfield



Police are appealing for information following an attempted robbery which took place near the junction of Whitehouse Loan and Warrender Park Crescent around 1.30am on Thursday 14th December.

A 27-year-old man was approached from behind by two men who had been walking south on a path across Bruntsfield Links, adjacent to Whitehouse Loan.

One of the men has then grabbed the victim while the other has demanded his personal belongings. The victim has refused and a struggle has ensued, before he was punched in the face.

Shortly after, the men fled back across Bruntsfield Links towards Barclary Terrace or Glengyle Terrace.

The victim has later attended the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary where he received treatment for minor facial injuries.

The first suspect is described as white, 18 – 22 years old, 5ft 9ins tall, of medium build, with short dark hair and wearing a blue quilted jacket with the hood up.

The second suspect is described as white, 18 – 22 years old, 5ft 9ins tall, of medium build, with blonde hair and wearing a dark-coloured quilted jacket.

Detective Constable Jo Robertson of Gayfield CID said: “The victim was just making his way home when he was attacked by two men and our enquiries continue to trace those responsible for this.

“Anyone who may have seen the men in the area, who recognises their descriptions or has any information about this incident and may be able to help is urged to get in touch with us.”

Anyone with information can contact Police Scotland on 101, quoting incident number 0196 of 14th December, or report this anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Looking for a church service this Christmas? – Let us make it easy for you

Actually it is the lovely people at [Edinburgh Churches Together](#) who have made it very easy to find your nearest church service this Christmas time.

Just click on the image below and you will be able to pick and choose the one that suits you best.



Indoor hockey – Inverleith in third

Division One (men): Inverleith 10, Edinburgh University 3; Hillhead 5, Dundee Wanderers 3; Kelburne 7, Grange 5; Grove Menzieshill 4, Edinburgh University 1; Dundee Wanderers 4,

Inverleith 6; Clydesdale 3, Grange 2; Kelburne 8, Hillhead 3; Dundee Wanderers 2, Grove Menzieshill 5; Edinburgh University 5, Clydesdale 6 (all games played at Bells Sports Centre, Perth).

Grove Menzieshill continued the relentless drive towards their 21st men's indoor Division 1 title with another six points from back-to-back victories over bottom side Edinburgh University and city rivals Dundee Wanderers.

Grove Menzieshill beat the students 4-1 and beat Wanderers 5-2 to move onto 15 points from five games.

Edinburgh University also lost 10-3 to city rivals Inverleith with captain Patrick Christie netting six goals, three in each half, and were edged 6-5 in the final game of the day by Clydesdale.

Inverleith beat Dundee Wanderers 6-4 to complete a successful Saturday as they continue to climb the table into third with nine points but Grange continue to struggle.

They lost 7-5 to Kelburne and 3-2 to Clydesdale and are second-bottom of the table with one point.

Edinburgh University have failed to land a point yet and the league resumes on Saturday, January 6.

Theatre – The Lover @ The Lyceum

✖ The Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh, Stellar Quines, and Scottish Dance Theatre present the world premiere of

The Lover

By Marguerite Duras. □Adapted for the stage by Fleur Darkin and Jemima Levick.

Co-directed by Fleur Darkin and Jemima Levick. □Dramaturgy by David Greig

20 January – 3 February 2018



Serendipitously coinciding with the return of **Miss Saigon** at The Festival Theatre in the new year, The Royal Lyceum will stage the world premiere of the **The Lover** set in 1920s French colonial Vietnam.

‘Very early in my life it was too late’

It is 1929, and while crossing the Mekong Delta to return to her boarding school in Saigon, a fifteen year old French girl catches the eye of a wealthy twenty-seven year old son of a Chinese delinquent millionaire. Accepting a ride in his chauffeured limousine, she has no idea how this chance meeting will transform her life forever.

Set against the backdrop of French colonial Vietnam, their relationship erupts and is extinguished quickly, but the passion, fury, confusion and desire between them will continue to be felt for decades to come.

Now presented in a thrilling collaboration between The Lyceum, Stellar Quines and Scottish Dance Theatre, the smouldering heat of new relationships, family politics, and long Saigon summers are brought to life on the stage for the first time, through the fusion of dance and words. Bringing together Stellar Quines and Scottish Dance Theatre for the first time, The Lover promises to be a visually lavish story that spans generations and cultures, showing love in all its complicated forms.

A unique collaboration between The Lyceum, Stellar Quines, and Scottish Dance Theatre, the production brings together two of Scotland's leading female Artistic Directors for the first time, in the first ever UK stage adaptation of Marguerite Duras' seminal work.

The Lover is a sensual adaptation of the semi-autobiographical novel by the same name. Written by Marguerite Duras and set in 1920s Vietnam, and details her affair as a teenager with an older, wealthy Chinese man. The play also takes inspiration from Duras' later novel, The North China Lover, a fascinating retelling of the dramatic experiences of her adolescence.

Adapted for the stage by Jemima Levick and Fleur Darkin, The Lover is polyglot – the production will fuse spoken word and intimate dance, as well as the French and English languages, in a performance by actors and dancers

[Tickets here](#)

Apply now for Edinburgh Quartet apprenticeships

The Edinburgh Quartet held their first ever competition in 2016, as a result of which violists Emily Pond and Morag Robertson became joint winners, the Edinburgh Quartet are once again extending applications to the UK's top music schools and conservatoires.

✖ Students between the ages of 18-25 are now invited to apply, with a limited number selected to go forward to participate in a live audition and workshop event at the **Reid Concert Hall in Edinburgh on Sunday 11 February 2018.**

The sessions are open to the public to come and go throughout the day, and there is free admission for all.

Entrants will be asked to take the place of a member of the Quartet, and perform two contrasting movements from a set list. By the end of the event, the Quartet will pick one person to come on board as their apprentice and form a quintet for an intensive period of rehearsal, mentoring and performances in the forthcoming season.

Mark Bailey, The Edinburgh Quartet's cellist, said: "This is a great opportunity to experience playing with one of Britain's foremost chamber ensembles, and provide a platform to help launch a professional career in chamber music".

Applications to the first round are open now, and will close on Tuesday 2 January 2018.

More information on the competition and how to enter are available from The Edinburgh Quartet's website: www.edinburghquartet.com, or by emailing chris@edinburghquartet.com.

Free late night trams this Hogmanay

As there has been in past years there will be free late night trams to get you home again after Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations.

Services will run through the night and into New Year's Day. Thousands used these trams last year and Edinburgh Trams hope they will add to your celebrations in 2017-18.

To help customers enjoy a packed programme of celebrations, Edinburgh Trams has teamed up with Edinburgh's Hogmanay organisers, Underbelly, to run free trams from every 20 minutes (from midnight on December 31 to 5am on January 1) between the West End and Edinburgh Airport.



Lea Harrison, Edinburgh Trams Managing Director, explained: "Thanks to its famous Hogmanay, Edinburgh is arguably the best place in the world to celebrate the New Year, and the city attracts tens of thousands of visitors from across the globe.

"The introduction of free night trams for the first time at the turn of 2017 proved a huge success, and we're delighted to once again be able to help visitors to make the most of a very special night and to enjoy a safe journey home afterwards."

Charlie Wood & Ed Bartlam, Directors, Edinburgh's Hogmanay, said: "After enjoying the BEST PARTY EVER, revellers will be able to glide home safely with Edinburgh Trams' free, overnight services. We're absolutely delighted Edinburgh Trams is again running this service for the thousands of locals and visitors who'll be attending Edinburgh's Hogmanay events."

Cllr Donald Wilson, Culture and Communities Convener, said: "Edinburgh's Hogmanay is the busiest night of the year in the city centre, with over 75,000 people counting down to midnight at our official celebrations alone. After enjoying a fantastic night with us, we want to get everyone home safely. We are thankful for the generous support of Edinburgh Trams, whose hard-working staff will be on duty throughout New Year's night to help make this happen."

Produced by Underbelly on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council, the celebrations start on December 30 with the Torchlight Procession in the heart of the city before reaching

a spectacular climax with a stunning firework display against the historic backdrop of Edinburgh Castle as the bells ring in the New Year.

The full programme is here at www.edinburghshogmanay.com

Speedway – Bandits complete their line-up



John Lindman in action

Berwick Bandits bosses have completed their team building next season in the SGB Championship with the signing of the reigning Austrian National Champion, Dany Gappmaier, and 23-year-old Swedish rider John Lindman

Gappmaier returns for his third term in Bandits colours and will form one half of the most potent reserve pairings in the league alongside Jye Etheridge.

The Austrian was one of the leagues most significant improvers last season, pushing his match average from under four points to 5.11 points.

John Lindman makes his British League debut but the Swede is no stranger to the Bandits management.

When Sebastian Alden suffered his 2016-ending neck injury, John was the No 1 choice to cover but it was logistically impossible to organise.

Lindman's average has now been reassessed from a straight 7.00 points to 5.20 points and Berwick have worked overtime to

secure his signature and make him a fully fledged Berwick Bandit.

Scott Courtney, the club's co-owner and co-promoter, said:

"Myself and brother Jamie have committed to a balanced looking side with lots of room for progress and a real comaradery amongst the boys.

"Dany Gapp returns to the side alongside Jye Etheridge at reserve and with the inclusion of John Lindman we will be using Berwick assets who all have a good opportunity to improve and in turn help the club gain success.

"We have three very talented lads on three similar averages there and I'd like all them to be targeting the six-point average mark through out the season.

"Aaron Summers has a point to prove and he's been a consistently top performer for quite some time but this is his opportunity to take that No 1 race suit and show everyone exactly why we believe he's the man for the job.

"Nikolaj Busk Jakobsen is an exciting talent. He gives it absolutely everything and I've always said it's far easier to manage that level of enthusiasm than it is to inspire it.

"Kevin Doolan is the quintessential inspirational speedway team captain and David Howe's résumé speaks for itself, They are both great team guys and both capable of still winning important races.

" To sum up, I'm very happy to have the side in place and we can continue to build momentum and look to promoting the upcoming season."

Bandits: 1, Aaron Summers 7.98; 2, Kevin Doolan 6.36 (captain); 3, John Lindman 5.20; 4, David Howe 6.18; 5, Nikolaj Busk Jakobsen 6.50; 6, Dany Gappmaier 5.11; 7, Jye Etheridge 5.06

Courtney said that buying a 2018 season pass before December the 31st entitles fans to receive a bonus. Adults are £199 and concessions £149.

Cautious welcome for university scheme

The University of Edinburgh will be included in a pilot scheme to simplify the visa process for those students on a Master's course of 13 months or less.



Tier 4 students will now be able to stay for six months after their course ends in order to seek work which is only two months more than they can at present.

Minister for International Development and Europe, Dr Alasdair Allan, said:

“We are pleased that the UK Government has recognised the need to broaden the Tier 4 pilot scheme to include two universities in Scotland, although it is disappointing that it has taken over a year for the pilot to be expanded. We urge the UK Government to roll out these modest changes to the Tier 4 route to all universities as soon as possible.

“We remain concerned at the UK Government's emphasis on visa refusal rates as the basis for including institutions in the pilot, as this can unfairly discriminate against smaller or more specialist institutions.”

Glasgow University is also being included in the pilot.

Gulls – Cook calls for action again

Morningside Councillor, Nick Cook called for Edinburgh Council to seek fresh information on ways the city can tackle the problem of urban gulls earlier this month.

His demands were approved by the Transport and Environment Committee in terms of the motion copied below.

Urban gulls – which commonly nest in tenemental areas – are known to swoop on residents, pets and tradesmen, in addition to creating noise nuisance and litter problems.



In a motion to the Transport and Environment Committee at the beginning of December, Cllr Cook called for the council to review the actions taken by other UK local authorities and other agencies in this area so as to identify future possibilities for action in Edinburgh. They agreed to do so only adding in one word to ensure that it would look only at the work of ‘relevant’ local authorities.

Councillor Cook said at the meeting : “At fairly regular intervals the matter of gull denesting is considered by the committee and it last came up in March 2017. There has been a lot of debate since the earlier pilot about what role the council should play in tackling urban gulls. The population of these birds has more than doubled since 2000.

“Merchiston Community Council has done a lot of work and there have been two public petitions which have attracted

significant support. I recognise that in March the council did not allocate any further funding but the Conservatives have shown that the council could fund a pilot scheme at least.

“What I am calling for today is for a bit of analysis to be done. A lot of fresh approaches have been used by a number of local authorities across the UK. It’s really to gather information and see if there is a fresh way we can deliver a denesting scheme.

“I’m not actually asking for any money today, although it would involve officers’ time. But this is one of the issues which members of the community contact me about most often. There are some areas of my ward where I knock on doors and they ask me ‘Oh are you the gull boy?’ I have campaigned on this issue for some time!”

Green group councillor Chas Booth did not oppose the motion, though stated that he disagreed that the pilot had been such a success. He asked that the council did not spend too much time only looking into denesting, but also looked at containerisation of waste which has been successful in ridding our city’s streets of the birds.

The Council funded a gull de-nesting pilot in Merchiston in 2013. Despite its apparent success, the Council has repeatedly chosen not to allocate any further funding. This comes despite continued campaigning by Councillor Cook and local community groups and two petitions signed by hundreds of residents.

Research from the University of Bristol shows that colonies of urban gulls have more than doubled since the year 2000,

Councillor Cook said : “I called on the Council to establish the best practices used across the United Kingdom and look at how these might be applied in Edinburgh.

“The Council has stubbornly refused to fund a fresh Gull de-nesting pilot, despite the ongoing desire of residents to see

action taken.

"I hope that by gathering this information, the Council can hatch a fresh de-nesting strategy for dealing with Urban Gulls which will attract cross-party support and funding."

In the council's Business Bulletin considered by the committee at 7 December 2017 the council stated :

"A gull de-nesting service has been made available by City of Edinburgh Council on a commercial basis since 2009. Records show that 786 nests have been removed since 2009, in accordance with the licence granted by Scottish National Heritage to the Council.

"As has previously been mentioned at Transport and Environment Committee, in 2012 a trial of a free service was carried out in North Merchiston with the outcome reported to committee. Officers remain of the opinion that it is not financially viable to provide this service free of charge. Whilst the trial was delivered in a relatively small area, at a cost of approximately £9,000, rolling out this service across all of our tenemental housing in the city would cost substantially more and there are no allocated funds to do so.

"Officers have undertaken benchmarking exercises with Scarborough Borough Council, who provide a gull de-nesting service around their seaside area at a cost of c.£40,000 per annum, and Bath and North East Somerset Council in a restricted area of the city at a cost of c.£60,000 per annum."

Councillor Cook's motion which was agreed (subject to insertion of the word relevant before Scottish and English local authorities) read as follows :

Notes the Business Bulletin update on Gull de-nesting;

Notes previous cross-party recognition of the urban Gulls issue and of the success of the 2012 de-nesting pilot in the North Merchiston;

Notes longstanding campaigning efforts and public petitions organised by Merchiston Community Council and residents to tackle the urban Gulls nuisance, with two previous public petitions each attracting hundreds of signatures;

Expresses disappointment that the Bulletin does not contain an update on the work of the Gulls working group as previously indicated it would; Understands that this is due to the group meeting on only one occasion, meaning it has had no meaningful opportunity to formulate potential approaches to tackling urban gulls as remitted.

To move forward work in tackling the problem of gulls colonising in urban areas the committee agrees to a report being brought before the March meeting which accurately reviews the actions of other local authorities in Scotland as well as that of English authorities and any other agencies which have been proactive in this area so that future possibilities for action in Edinburgh are identified.

This matter will next be considered in March 2018 when a report will have been prepared by council officers on those local authorities which use denesting to deal with the problem.

Ice hockey – Capitals burned by Flames

❌ Elite League: Cardiff Devils 6, Braehead Clan 4; Edinburgh Capitals 2, Guildford Flames 7; Sheffield Steelers 1, Fife Flyers 3

The nightmare continues for Edinburgh Capitals who have skidded to their sixth straight defeat.

Elite League newcomers Guildford Flames dispatched the Murrayfield men 7-2 and Capitals have won only three of 24 league fixtures so far this season.

Brett Ferguson and Liam Stewart, son of Sir Rod Stewart, scored doubles with Mike Cazzola and Dylan Anderson netting for the home side.

In Yorkshire, Fife Flyers claimed their fifth straight Elite League win when they cut down Sheffield Steelers despite being heavily outshot.

And the Kirkcaldy club had to come from behind to earn the confidence-boosting 3-1 road win against one of Britain's most decorated clubs.

Mathieu Roy slotted for Sheffield after 11 minutes assisted by former Braehead Clan star Zack Fitzgerald and the scoreline stayed the same until the first break.

The Fifiers hit back and Todd Dutiaume's men took advantage when the Yorkshire side hit penalty trouble.

Shayne Stockton scored on the power play after being set up by Ricards Birzins.

The goal after 36min 58sec was quickly followed by another, this time from Chase Schaber.

Again, the Yorkshire side were under penalty and it was Danick Gauthier who assisted on this occasion. Time 38min 14sec.

And it took until 52 seconds from time to finally nail the win when Charley Mosey scored.

Sheffield coach Paul Thomson gambled by withdrawing his netminder Ervins Mustukovs (cor) and Gauthier and Schaber were on hand to set up Mosey for the clincher.

Fife's highly-rated netminder Andy Iles had 44 shots to deal with in the 60 minutes while Mustukovs had 30.

In Wales, Craig Peacock netted a double for Braehead Clan but they suffered their fifth defeat in a row.

In-form Cardiff Devils, the new league pace-setters, won 6-4 to claim their seventh straight win.

Layne Ulmer and Jake Morissette both netted doubles and Matt Pope was inspirational with a goal and three assists.

Glorious Hearts Shatter Celtic's Unbeaten Record



Hearts 4 (four) Celtic 0

Ladbrokes Premiership, Sunday 17th December 2017 – Tynecastle Park

Having seen their team score just eight goals in the league at

home this season, the visit to Tynecastle Park of the unbeaten league champions was not something Hearts fans were particularly looking forward to. Added to this was the fact the home side were without influential players Arnaud Djoum, Jamie Walker and John Souttar and one could see how a word associated with Christmas dinner might be applied to the Ladbrokes Premiership game with Celtic. And so, it came to pass that, shortly after 2.15pm on Sunday, one team was well and truly stuffed.

That team was Celtic whose 69-game unbeaten run in domestic games in Scotland was shattered into tiny pieces in front of a disbelieving but ecstatic Hearts support.

Hearts last couple of performances lent hope to a team slowly turning the tide of what has so far been a dismal season for those in maroon. A narrow 1-0 win over a high-flying Motherwell side eight days ago was followed by an impressive 2-0 win over Dundee on Tuesday. Celtic, though, would be a different kettle of fish. The 'invincibles' had not tasted defeat in Scotland since May 2016, prior to present manager Brendan Rodgers taking over. They almost succumbed at Easter Road last Sunday after throwing away a two-goal lead at Hibernian but very few people saw them losing to the team from the other side of Edinburgh.

Hearts Head Coach Craig Levein made no less than seven changes from the team that won convincingly against Dundee in Gorgie on Tuesday evening. The impressive Anthony McDonald was left out as was Isma Goncalves, Lewis Moore, Rafal Grzelak, Cole Stockton, the injured Arnaud Djoum and the suspended John Souttar.

Coming into the Hearts team were Harry Cochrane, Don Cowie, Ross Callachan, Michael Smith, Jamie Brandon, David Milinkovic and the man the Celtic fans love to hate, former Rangers striker Kyle Lafferty.

A huge crowd greeted the teams for the lunch-time kick-off for a game being shown around the country by Sky Sports.

Hearts had a determined look about them from the kick-off. Lafferty had the game's first chance when he turned on the edge of the Celtic penalty box but his shot on goal went over the bar and into the baying Celtic support in the Roseburn Stand.

Former Hearts keeper Craig Gordon was almost caught out by Don Cowie before Ross Callachan burst forward but his effort on goal went the same way as Lafferty's earlier effort.

Still, it was an encouraging start for the depleted home side although the unbeaten league champions had an opportunity to open the scoring when Forrest set up Griffiths, but the former Hibernian striker slipped, and the chance was gone.

At the other end, Christophe Berra wasn't far away with a header from a corner from Don Cowie.

Midway through the first half, Griffiths had another opportunity for the visitors after being set up once more by Forrest, but his effort went into the side-netting.

It was a pulsating game and Hearts were having a real go at the league champions. In the 26th minute, Tynecastle erupted when Hearts took the lead. Fine play from Connor Randall found Don Cowie who fed Harry Cochrane. The 16-year-old looked up and lashed the ball into the net from the edge of the penalty box to the unconfined joy of the Hearts support.

Celtic looked stunned and it could have been 2-0 minutes later when Don Cowie and young Cochrane – both getting through a power of work in midfield – set up David Milinkovic whose fierce shot forced a brilliant save from Gordon.

Eleven minutes before half-time Hearts, incredibly, were 2-0 ahead. The impressive Milinkovic won the ball and passed to

Kyle Lafferty. The striker lashed home a shot which struck a post before trundling into the net. Bedlam at Tynecastle!

Half-time Hearts 2 Celtic 0

It had been an incredible first half, but one wondered if such a tremendous effort would take its toll on the Hearts players. Celtic brought on Dembele and Armstrong at the start of the second half and, inevitably, began with an onslaught on the Hearts defence.

The maroon rear-guard, however, stood firm with Christophe Berra and Michael Smith coping admirably with everything Celtic could throw at them although Sinclair had an effort blocked when it looked like he would score.

Then, just three minutes into the second period, a goal did arrive. But not at the end most expected. A slip from Simunovic allowed David Milinkovic to take the ball round Gordon and slot the ball home for Hearts third. Tynecastle was rocking to its new foundations!

Celtic's long unbeaten record was now under serious threat, but Griffiths fired in a long-range effort which was brilliantly saved by Hearts keeper Jon McLaughlin.

Hearts were now happy to hit on the counter-attack and with 14 minutes left put the seal on a memorable victory with an astonishing fourth goal.

Ross Callachan, who must have covered every blade of Tynecastle grass, ran through on goal and was brought down by Gordon. Penalty said referee Willie Collum and Milinkovic duly converted the spot kick.

Remarkable as it seemed Hearts were coasting now, and the home support even had time to perform the 'Poznan' when they mimicked Celtic supporters by turning their backs on the game, linking arms and jumping up and down. It was a sweet moment

for the Maroon Army who have witnessed far too many thumpings at the hands of Celtic in recent years.

When Willie Collum blew his whistle for the final time the magnificent Hearts players were given a tumultuous reception by an ecstatic Hearts support. It was Hearts biggest winning margin over Celtic since 1895 and the first time they had scored four goals against the Hoops since 1972.

Craig Levein was understandably delighted after the game. He told the official Hearts website:

“It’s up there with the best moments I’ve experienced. All credit to Celtic to even be in that position to begin with, trying to get to seventy wins, it takes a huge a level of commitment and effort to get there. That said, for us to be the team to defeat them is outstanding.

“If you get caught, they can cut you open,” he continued. “The defenders and their recovery runs when the high press didn’t work, that was where we made the difference. We also had Michael Smith doing something he wasn’t used to – playing at centre-half – but he was fantastic.

“He and the rest of the defence dealt with a very talented frontline superbly, but it was a team effort ultimately. Today wasn’t a day where we could have 9 or 10 players and one not on their game, it had to be collective, and they got their rewards for their hard work.”

On man-of-the-match Harry Cochrane, Levein said “We don’t want to start putting people on a pedestal. Having said that, Harry is a pleasure to work with. He’s a well-mannered, well brought up boy who just loves playing football. It’s all new to him, but he’s going around like the Cheshire Cat.

“He’s really got something, and it’s not easy to play well in a match like today. Scott Brown is a tremendous player, and Harry could learn a lot from him, but ultimately today it was

our day and Harry was on the winning side.”

Given Hearts unimpressive form for much of this season, few would have expected Celtic’s 18-month unbeaten domestic run to have ended in Gorgie on Sunday. But it did after arguably Hearts best performance for many a year.

I had mentioned to my 12-year-old grandson Jack that, given Hearts selection crisis and the fact it was Celtic they were playing, we might want to leave when the score got to 4-0. But we didn’t leave at 4-0 – we stayed to the glorious, if somewhat unexpected end!

Hearts: McLaughlin, Brandon, Berra, M.Smith, Randall, Cowie, Callachan (Grzelak, 85’), Cochrane, Buaben (McDonald, 66’), Milinkovic, Lafferty (Stockton, 72’).

Celtic: Gordon, Lustig, Simunovic, Boyata, Tierney (Dembele, 46’), Forrest, Ntcham (Armstrong, 46’), Brown, McGregor (Edouard, 66’), Sinclair, Griffiths.

Referee: Willie Collum

Attendance: 18,555

Top Man: Harry Cochrane – although ‘man’ might be pushing it. He couldn’t accept the champagne offered for the man-of-the-match as he isn’t legally old enough to drink it!

Good natured protest for segregated cycle lanes on

Leith Walk



Around 100 protesters from Protection Not Paint congregated on Leith Walk yesterday to highlight the need for segregation between cyclists and motor vehicles.

This follows the recent installation and removal of the 'armadillos' on Leith Walk which at least afforded some degree of physical separation.

The council said at their meeting on 7 December 2017 that they would install a different style of physical protection. Protection Not Paint welcomed this but proceeded with their event yesterday as a form of celebration of that decision.

On 7 December Councillor Chas Booth raised the matter of the armadillos at the Transport and Environment Committee and sought clarification about the replacement of some other kind of physical measure.

Councillor Lesley Macinnes, Transport Convener, advised that she had met with the officials concerned as soon as the situation arose with this 'soft segregation measure' which marked out the cycle lanes. She said they were put in as an experiment but that there had been some problems including what she described as 'near misses'.

Councillor Macinnes said that some pedestrians had tripped on them towards the roadway, some cars had hit the armadillos and one flew off on to the pavement. This she said was the reason for the speedy removal of the objects but the convener also confirmed the council will now look at the alternatives.

A council officer confirmed that the Leith Programme Oversight Group would discuss the alternatives and find the options available.

Protection Not Paint say that without any form of separation between the different forms of traffic, cycle lanes and pavements are often blocked by illegally parked cars.

They say that the event was fun and good natured and gave them the opportunity to talk to passers by most of whom supported them.



Photos courtesy of Andy Catlin

Police hunt bogus gas board officials after 84-year-old man robbed in own house



A police investigation is underway after an 84-year-old man was robbed in his own home at Mayfield Drive, Armadale by two men claiming to be from the gas board checking for a leak.

The incident took place around 6am on Saturday morning.

The pair then searched the rooms before stealing his bank card, utilities cards and robbing the pensioner of a three figure sum of cash.

Both suspects then made off towards Mayfield Court.

The first suspect is described as white, 30-40 years-old, 5ft 10ins tall with an Irish accent.

The second is described as white, 30-40 years-old, 5ft 7ins tall with a stocky build and a local accent.

Both men were wearing Hi Viz vests, dark jackets and jeans, brown footwear, black balaclavas and gloves.

Detective Constable Jo McCall of Livingston CID said: "This was a frightening incident for the elderly victim within his home, which has naturally left him shaken.

"We are now appealing for witnesses who may have seen the suspects, or who recognise the descriptions to come forward.

"We'd also like to remind the public to be vigilant and ensure you ask for identification and if in any doubt do not let the persons in to your home until their identity can be verified by the agency or company.

"Always remember you are under no obligation to let a stranger into your home if you are unsure."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 or make an anonymous report through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Missing person – Lee Gibb last seen in Polwarth on Friday

Edinburgh Police appealed today for information to help trace a man who has been reported missing from the South East of the city.

Lee Gibb was last seen in Watson Crescent in the Polwarth area at around 4 p.m. on Friday 15 December 2017.



The 43-year-old did not return to his home in Craigmillar, and concern is growing for his welfare.

Lee has learning difficulties, but has previously used his bus pass to travel throughout the country. Officers are therefore keen to establish his whereabouts as soon as possible.

Anyone who believes they have seen him is asked to come forward.

He is described as white, 6ft tall with a slim build, short dark hair and wearing a black coat, black trousers and black boots.

Sergeant Mark Willie from Craigmillar Police Station said: "While Lee has limited access to money, he has a bus pass, which he has previously used to travel outside of Edinburgh.

"With that in mind, we would ask members of the public throughout the country to keep a look out for Lee and contact us immediately if they see him, particularly around bus stations.

"In addition, we would ask Lee to get in touch if he sees this appeal so we can ensure he is safe."

Those with information can contact Craigmillar Police Station via 101 and quote incident number 2746 of 15 December 2017.

Theatre News – More Relaxed & Inclusive Performances Announced

Enabling more accessibility and inclusion our friends at the The Festival City Theatres Trust, which runs the Festival and King's theatres, once again expand their programme of relaxed performances for audiences of all ages for the 2017/18 festive season.

What have they to say for themselves?



“Ahead of an inclusive performance of Scottish Ballet’s The Nutcracker, the Festival City Theatres Trust is delighted to present its fullest ever programme of performances which embrace the relaxed approach, making performances accessible to audiences of all ages with mild to complex support needs.

“We have been building our programme of ‘relaxed performances’ for a number of years. The relaxed performance of The Snowman at the Festival Theatre in December 2012 was the first of its kind in Scotland, and helped foster a new approach in making live performance accessible to all.

“During this festive season, we have two shows in our programme The Tin Soldier from Birds of Paradise and The Attic from children’s theatre company Starcatchers which are designed to be accessible for audiences of all needs at every public performance.


“Our relaxed performances include performances for children from Edinburgh’s special schools, and inclusive performances for audiences of all ages with additional support needs:



Relaxed Performance of the King's panto, Cinderella, Friday 12 Jan, 2pm

Schools Relaxed Performance of King's pantomime, Cinderella, Thursday 18 Jan
10.30am

Every public performance in the run of Starcatcher's The Attic in The Studio (6-21 January) is 'relaxed' with 5 additional performances for Edinburgh Special schools and an additional Dementia Friendly performance on Friday 19 January at 1.30pm.

"The Festival and King's Theatres are committed to ensuring  that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy theatre in a supportive environment."

"Our relaxed performances are made possible with generous support from our sponsors and funders. Our thanks and appreciation to Rowan Glen, Arts & Business Culture & Business Fun Scotland, Radio Forth's Cash for Kids and Walter Scott."

<http://www.edtheatres.com>