

Speedway – Havelock praises track staff and team



Gary Havelock (centre) and Scott Courtney of Berwick. Picture by Nigel Duncan Media

Berwick Bandits gained revenge over Edinburgh Monarchs in a meeting which went ahead after sterling work from Ian Rae and George Hepburn.

Gary Havelock, Berwick's team manager, said the meeting would not have gone on without the pair after the weather forecast proved incorrect.

A mass of overnight and early morning rain left the track flooded at 6am and with Rae and Hepburn worked continuously from early morning right up to start time to get a brilliant track surface to race on.

Race times were generally faster than the average and Bandits, who lost 48-42 in the Borders earlier in the season, won 49-41 to continue their good recent form.

Havelock said: "Well we were desperate for the win over Edinburgh and the guys went out and rode out of their skins to get it as that's all I've heard all week...beat Edinburgh...beat Edinburgh.

"We did. It was a great result and next week we've got the league leaders, Sheffield (Tigers) in town.

"After Saturday night, our fifth home win in a row, I fully believe we have the beating of Sheffield well within us and it's going to be a fantastic way to close our first year promoting Berwick."

The former world champion added: "Before the season started I

said the worst we could do would be to win the league in our first season as that would lift what the fans would expect and make next season a hard ask.

“Whilst I didn’t mean finish stone last, the way the fans have stood by us, understood what we’re doing, its actually been a pretty good first season’s business, and the crowds have stuck with us and turned up every week. We put decent foundations in this year to really build on over the future.”

Havelock said: “Got to thank Razor (Ian Rae) and Heppy (George Hepburn) who worked at the track from about six in the morning or some godforsaken hour right through the day after the track was flooded unexpectedly.

“If the forecasters had got their act together and given us accurate information we’d have had the track covered on Friday but as they didn’t get it right at all, we nearly lost the meeting with the flooding, but Razor and Heppy worked a miracle and we had a great track to race on. Thanks guys.”

Olympus Marquees Berwick Bandits (Powered by Mike Hope, Wooler) 49: Nick Morris 12, Nikolaj Busk Jakobsen, Rider replacement, Dany Gappmaier 3, Kevin Doolan 11, David Howe 13, Jye Etheridge 10,
Ryan Terry-Daley (guest) 0

Edinburgh Parsons Peebles Monarchs 41: Lasse Bjerre (guest) 8, Mark Riss 4, Ricky Wells 9, Josh Pickering 4, Erik Riss 12, Max Clegg 2, Mitchell Davey 2

Field hockey – Inverleith find it tough



Dan Coultas scored on his Division One debut for Grange. Picture Nigel Duncan Media

Inverleith found Bromac Kelburne to tough to handle in their return to Scotland's top field hockey league after two seasons.

The defending champions, looking for their 14th straight domestic title, started their campaign with a 5-1 win over the Edinburgh side.

Playmaker Michael Christie made his comeback and proved inspirational at Glasgow's National Hockey Centre.

He scored two goals in the comfortable win and Kelburne's other scorers were Ben Peterson, Michael's brother Johnny and set-piece expert Josh Cairns.

Slackness in the champions' defence allowed John Martin to claim Inverleith's consolation.

Grange, who lost out on the title with a dramatic final day defeat to Western Wildcats, made a positive start to this year's campaign with a 4-0 win over Clydesdale at Titwood.

Under-21 international Callum McKenzie scored twice while the other goals came from Callum Milne from the spot and Dan Coultas at a penalty corner.

Western Wildcats beat Hillhead 3-2 at Auchenhowie. Fraser Moran and Richard Pollock and Matt McGinley netted for the home side with Scottish international Callum Duke scoring twice for the visitors.

In the Tayside derby Grove Menzieshill beat promoted Dundee Wanderers 3-1 win after being level at the interval.
Ben Cosgrove, Olly James and Gavin Byers scored for Grove with Elliot Sandison replying.

Speedway – Erik stars but Monarchs skid to defeat



Erik Riss scored 12 points but Monarchs lost at Berwick Bandits.
Picture Jack Cupido

Berwick Bandits continued their recent good form by edging play-off contenders Edinburgh Monarchs in the Borders.

The league bottom-markers won 49-41 despite 12 points from Monarchs' German racer Erik Riss.

John Campbell, Monarchs' co-promoter, admitted the loss of skipper Sam Masters through injury cost his side.

He added that Monarchs did well to come close as they only had four race winners on the night.

In the West of Scotland, skipper Aaron Summers top scored with 16 points from six rides as Glasgow Tigers stung struggling Scunthorpe Scorpions 55-37 at Ashfield.

Richard Lawson was next best with 12 points in the comfortable win with Lewis Kerr top scored for the visitors with 12 points.

Ice hockey – battling Capitals edged by Clan



Todd Dutiaume guides his Fife Flyers side against Braehead Clan in the Scottish Elite Cup Final on Sunday (6.30pm)

Scottish Elite Cup: semi-final: Braehead Clan 4, Edinburgh Capitals 2; Fife Flyers 6, Dundee Stars 2 (at Murrayfield).

Braehead Clan will face Fife Flyers on Sunday (6.30pm) in the final of the inaugural Scottish Elite Cup.

The Glasgow side, who won the Gardiner Conference title last season, edged hosts Edinburgh Capitals 4-2 in a high-tempo semi-final at Murrayfield.

Earlier, Fife Flyers thrashed Dundee Stars 6-2 in the other semi-final.

Scott Neil, Capitals' co-owner, said: "There were lots of positives but we lost a game we were hoping we could win and make the final."

Capitals forced the pace in the opening session but went into the dressing-room 2-0 down following goals from Mike Embach and Jacob Doty.

The hosts pulled one back 61 seconds into the second session from Sergei Banashkov but Clan went 3-1 ahead four minutes later when Richard Hartmann, a former Capitals player and coach, netted.

And they made it 4-1 on the power play when Landon Oslanski

scored in the 49th minute.

Igor Valeyev scored a second five minutes after that as Capitals upped the pace in search of a way back into the game but Clan kept their cool.

Earlier, Todd Dutiaume praised his team after their convincing 6-2 victory over arch rivals Dundee Stars in the first semi-final of the inaugural Scottish Elite Cup at Murrayfield.

Fife Flyers' coach has recruited young, enthusiastic players this season and they controlled the game from start to finish.

Flyers led 2-0 thanks to goals from Danick Gauthier and Chase Schaber inside the first eight minutes.

Dundee pulled one back through former Nottingham Panthers defenceman Chris Lawrence 23 minutes later but Fife moved 3-1 ahead through Liam Heelis only 13 seconds later and Carlo Finucci and Ricards Birzins increased the lead to 5-1 after 43 minutes.

Johan Andersson pulled one back after 54 minutes but three minutes later Russ Moyer popped in Flyers sixth to completed the scoring.

Dutiaume said: "It was a pretty solid team performance and we wanted to come out and impress against one of our closest rivals and I thought we did that.

"The work rate is there and it is an enthusiastic group to work with."

He added: "Last time we were in a competition similar to this we won it and it is a great way to kick off the season."

No Goals But Gritty Hearts Are On Their Way Back



Hearts 0 Aberdeen 0

Ladbrokes Premiership, Saturday 9th September 2017 – BT Murrayfield Stadium

There was a surreal feeling about Hearts first league game of the season on Saturday. The Maroon Army weren't heading to Gorgie but to the BT Murrayfield Stadium, a Don Cowie corner kick over the Western Approach road away. With Tynecastle's new main stand not yet ready for use, Hearts have arranged to play their first three 'home' games in the Ladbrokes Premiership at the home of Scottish rugby.

The fact we're in the second week of September and Hearts have been away from home in the first four league fixtures added to the unreal feeling as did the fact that Hearts manager from a decade and a half ago was back in charge of first team matters. Craig Levein looked dapper in his suit, collar and tie, a throw-back to an era when sartorial elegance was still an element of football management.

And then there was the size of the crowd. More than 24,000 were inside the game as the game kicked off slightly late – Hearts biggest home attendance in nearly 13 years.

Levein made four changes from the team that lost 2-1 at Motherwell two weeks ago. Hearts new goalkeeper Jon McLaughlin and fellow new signing Ross Callachan made their debuts while Connor Randall and Isma Goncalves returned to the starting line-up.

Hearts began the game like a rabbit caught in the headlights. There has been much hype about Aberdeen's admittedly

impressive start to the league campaign with the Dons sitting top of the Ladbrokes Premiership with a 100% record after four games. It seemed some of the Hearts players were believing the hype as the Maroons were penned in their own half for much of the opening half hour.

Just two minutes had gone when Aberdeen nearly got the perfect start when May's fine lob soared over debutant keeper Jon McLaughlin but, thankfully for the home support, Hearts captain Christophe Berra thwarted Rooney to prevent the opener.

Backed by a large travelling support of around 7,000, the Dons continued to swarm forward but it was Hearts who had a real opportunity when Jamie Walker was felled inside the penalty box – but referee Craig Thomson refused to listen to strong home appeals for a penalty kick.

At the other end, Christie fired in a free-kick which was deflected to Ball but his effort on goal was wide.

As the first half wore on Hearts at last began to appear as an attacking threat. On the half-hour mark, Jamie Walker's free-kick from just outside the penalty box was well saved by Dons keeper Lewis before he thwarted Isma Goncalves as Hearts finally began to show some belief.

Aberdeen, though, continued to create the better chances and Christie's low shot went inches wide. Then, the game's best chance fell to Jamie Walker. The attacking midfielder – the subject of transfer speculation linking him with a move to Rangers before the transfer window closed at the end of August – had time and space just inside the Aberdeen penalty box to chip the ball over keeper Lewis, only for the Dons custodian to produce a stunning leap to push the ball over the bar.

It was then the turn of Hearts keeper McLaughlin to produce heroics as he denied Logan with a fine save with his legs.

Half-time: Hearts 0 Aberdeen 0

It isn't clear what Craig Levein said to his troops during the interval but Hearts came out looking like a different team in the second half. Ross Callachan got on the end of a pass from Goncalves and the former Raith Rovers player and life-long Jambo thought he had scored on his Hearts debut only for keeper Lewis to produce another stunning save to push his effort wide.

Jamie Walker was next to test the Dons keeper as Hearts began to dominate the game.

In the 63rd minute, Hearts came agonisingly close to making the breakthrough. Fine play from Jamie Walker set up Goncalves who took a step inside before firing a fierce shot off the crossbar. The Hearts players and supporters collectively held their heads in their hands.

As much as the first half had been all Aberdeen the second was a tidal wave of maroon attacks. Kyle Lafferty and new boy Manuel Milinkovic came on and it was the Northern Irishman who had a great chance to score but he dithered allowing Logan to clear.

Both sides then chased the game in the final minutes but it was something of a travesty that the game ended without a goal. It certainly deserved not just one but several. It was the proverbial game of two halves – Aberdeen dominating the first with Hearts very much in control of the second.

Afterwards, Craig Levein said he was disappointed his team did not get the three points their second half dominance deserved. He told the official Hearts website:

"Once I get over the disappointment of not winning the match, I'll be able to focus on the positives that we can build on. I honestly feel a bit robbed, but enormous credit to Aberdeen and to Joe Lewis today."

"I can't even blame our strikers for not hitting the target enough, because they did. Sometimes, it's Aberdeen's forward players who get all the attention, but at times it felt like the keeper kept us singlehandedly at bay.

"Three points would have really pushed us on, but I'm sure when I look at the match in the cold light of tomorrow, I'll feel really good about the positives. Right now, though, I'm just disappointed.

"We've got a wee bit to go until our next game here, so we won't have all the nice facilities like we've had this week and we need to prepare for that, but everyone in training has worked really well, and taken it onto the pitch, so I can have no complaints."

It was like a Hearts team of old on Saturday. Yes, there were long balls played on several occasions although when they did get the ball down on the Murrayfield playing surface they passed it with aplomb. However, there was fight, determination and a physical presence which was notably absent during Ian Cathro's time in charge.

Had Cathro been in charge of Hearts on Saturday I have a feeling the Maroons would have lost the game. Had Billy Davies – one of several out-of-work managers who had expressed an interest in the Hearts Head Coach position – been in charge I have no doubt Hearts would have lost the game. His comments in the press today mark him as a bitter man who has little respect for Scottish football.

But it's Craig Levein who is back in charge of Hearts. And if the boys in maroon can play like this for the rest of the season they will soon be moving up the league.

Hearts: McLaughlin, Souttar, Hughes, Berra, Grzelak, Randall, Cowie, Callachan, Walker (Milinkovic, 76'), Djoum, Isma (Lafferty, 64')

Aberdeen: Lewis, Logan, Shinnie, Considine, O'Connor, McLean, Rooney (Maynard, 69'), Wright (Mackay-Steven, 69'), Ball (Reynolds, 80'), Christie, May.

Ref: Craig Thomson

Att: 24,248

Top Man: Aaron Hughes. It's been a great week for the Northern Irishman and he could almost have lit up a cigar as he strolled through the game

Hibs held to draw in Perth



Despite having 64% possession, Hibs had to settle for a point against in form St Johnstone at McDiarmid Park this afternoon.

Head Coach Neil Lennon made two changes to the starting XI that drew with Dundee, with Darren McGregor and Vykintas Slivka making way for Martin Boyle and Efe Ambrose.

Anthony Stokes forced a great save from Alan Mannus in the opening spell and Paul Hanlon did well to cut out a pass from former team mate David Wotherspoon as both sides carved out early chances.

Mannus did well to save from John McGinn but the first half ended all square.

Hibs started the second half in style and Mannus produced a superb save from Boyle strike before follow-ups from Stokes then Murray were blocked by the Saints' defenders.

It was the home side that took the lead in the 49th minute against the run of play when former Hibs' captain Liam Craig's cross found Michael O'Halloran unmarked to tap in from close range.

Hibs fought back and grabbed an equaliser on the hour mark after Simon Murray latched onto a mistake from Steven Anderson and his cutback was knocked into his own net by Paul Paton with Stokes waiting to finish.

Anderson then redeemed himself by clearing off the line following great work by Stokes.

Boyle's powerful strike from the edge of the box was tipped onto the bar from Mannus then from the resultant corner the ball was cleared off the line.

In the last minute, Stokes fired over from 12 yards after good work from Simon Murray and the game ended with honours even.

After the game Lennon told BBC Scotland: "To come here and play as well as that, I'm delighted. We looked a very good side today and I can't criticise any part of the team, I thought we were outstanding and thoroughly deserved to win the game.

"The dominance of the team pleased me. St Johnstone do what they do very well and when they get the goal you're thinking 'it's difficult to break them down at times'.

"But we deserved the equaliser and went on and looked the stronger side. Our play in general, our football at times was spectacular against a very, very good side."

St Johnstone manager Tommy Wright: "I'm more satisfied with the point than I am with the performance. We started the game so well. The first 20 minutes we moved the ball well, looked energetic and then for whatever reason from 20-25 minutes in

Hibs totally dominated the game.

"But when we get a goal ahead you think 'that'll lift us' but it didn't. I just thought all day we were too deep and allowing Hibs too much possession and they controlled the game and will be disappointed they didn't win it.

"I've just said to (the players) there's not many teams who'll play so poorly but still get a point from the game and I suppose that shows a bit of character but overall I've got to be extremely disappointed with the performance. I would expect better."

St Johnstone: Mannus, Shaughnessy, Anderson, Easton, Foster, Davidson (Craig, 46'), Paton, Wotherspoon (Tanser, 88'), Scougall (Johnstone, 69'), O'Halloran, MacLean. Subs not used: Clark, McClean, Gilchrist, Cummins.

Hibernian: Marciano, Gray, Ambrose, Hanlon, Whittaker, Boyle, Bartley, McGinn, Barker (Swanson, 74'), Stokes (Matulevicius, 90'), Murray. Subs not used: Laidlaw, Stevenson, Porteous, McGeouch, Slivka.

Attendance: 5591

(2548 Hibernian fans)

Rugby – Edinburgh Rugby v Newport-Gwent Dragons, Guinness PR014

Edinburgh secure second PR014 win in succession



Newport-Gwent Dragons were the visitors to, the reworked, Myreside on Friday night as the new-look Guinness competition started its second week as the PRO14 league thanks to the inclusion of two South African teams who had found themselves cut from the, Southern Hemisphere, Super Rugby League.

However, that challenge is still to come and it was the Dragons who were up for the first Myreside match of the season.

The match started well for the home side, but once the visitors had weathered the initial pressure, they drove deep into Edinburgh's half and had the home side on the defensive back foot.

A 9th minute penalty from the 'former superstar' Gavin Henson – still looks like a superb player – was followed up a couple of minutes later by the Welsh stand off slotting home a drop goal from outside the opposition 22 for a 6-0 lead.

As the end of the first quarter approached, Edinburgh were beginning to come back into the match and exert some pressure of their own.

As the match was pushed back into the Dragons' 22, the ball was recycled swiftly through the pack, releasing new signing, Robbie Fruean down the left wing. Reward for the pressure came via a 23rd minute penalty for Edinburgh's Duncan Weir for 6-3.

A long break from his own 22 by full back, Blair Kinghorn, brought the play straight back into Dragons' territory, and, although the ball was lost, the home side eventually saw another Weir penalty over the posts for 6-6 with around 13 minutes left in the half.



With the half hour mark on the clock, Dragons lost the ball from their own scrum as Edinburgh's scrum half, Sam Hidalgo-Clyne, turned over his opposite number at the rear of the pile up. The ball was then quickly sent across the pitch where Chris dean broke through to set up a flying Kinghorn for the first try of the match. Weir then converted to take Edinburgh clear at 13-6.

From the restart, Edinburgh were back, putting pressure on the dragons' line, and getting close to scoring their second try from a five metre ruck. However, as the crowd all thought the referee went upstairs to check the grounding, he was actually checking for foul play at the ruck. And, foul play thus confirmed, Weir was yellow carded for using his feet on a player on the ground.

Down to 14, Edinburgh held their own until the stroke of half time, when Henson knocked over another penalty for a half time score of 13-9.

Edinburgh managed to muck about and delay proceedings at the start of the second half, running the clock down and getting Weir back on with no further damage to the score board. They then returned to the fray with a series of running attacks, culminating with their second try. Once again, a searing break from Kinghorn carried the ball deep into the opposition 22, Kinghorn then offloading to allow Hidalgo-Clyne to dive in under the posts. Weir then knocked the conversion over and, with 48 minutes played, Edinburgh were 20-9 ahead.

Straight from the off, Dragons almost gave Edinburgh a taste of their own medicine and almost scored a fine try in the left corner, but a fine covering tackle just short of the line, prevented the score.



This didn't, however, prevent the scoring as the next 15 minutes saw Edinburgh going to sleep, giving away the ball and three penalties within kicking range to allow Henson to bring the visitors up to within two points at 20-18.

So, with 15 minutes left to play, things were looking a bit close, but the home side upped their game and continued pressure put sub, Junior Raseolea over in the corner for Edinburgh's third try minutes after Weir had opened the gap with a 75th minute penalty, Raseolea's try – unconverted – too it out to 10 points at 28-18.

Fruean then got just reward for his part in setting up the previous try, by scoring one of his own under the posts with just four minutes left on the clock. Weir converted to close the match at 35-18 to Edinburgh.

A fine win, but, as coach, Richard Cockerill commented after the match, not a, consistently enough, fine performance.

Images from the match will [appear here](#) over the next few days.

World's Biggest Coffee Morning makes its return in September

Macmillan Cancer Support's much-loved [World's Biggest Coffee Morning](#) will be returning for its 27th year to homes, workplaces, communities and schools across the country on Friday 29 September 2017.



In Scotland, 6665 coffee mornings raised more than £2.3m in 2016 and this year's event aims to raise even more money for people affected by cancer.



The first official event took place in 1991. It has since become the biggest fundraising event of its kind, raising more than £194m UK-wide for people affected by cancer over the past 26 years.

This is the year that the total raised by World's Biggest Coffee Morning will pass the £200m mark and Macmillan is asking everyone to take part, either by getting together with family, friends or colleagues over coffee and cake or finding a coffee morning nearby to get involved in.

M&S will once again be the official partner and throughout September customers will be able to pick up a selection of limited edition homeware products in store, with 10% of each sale going to Macmillan. M&S will also be donating 10% from sales of classic cakes, as well as a vast selection of biscuits, cupcakes and cookie mixes.

For more information on Macmillan's Coffee Morning or to register for your free fundraising pack, visit www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee.



Ice hockey – professional

approach at Capitals



Action from last season at Murrayfield.

Picture by Ian Cloyle

Michael D'Orazio was a face in the crowd as Braehead Clan were recently blown out 7-1 by a touring ice hockey team in a pre-season challenge

D'Orazio, Edinburgh Capitals' popular Ontario-born player, is, however, known for his thirst for knowledge as the 27-year-old combines being a key man on defence while continuing his studies at one of the city's universities.

And so he knows what to expect as Capitals square-up to Clan in the semi-final of the inaugural Scottish Elite Cup at Murrayfield tonight (Saturday, face-off 5.30pm).

It's D'Orazio's second year with Capitals having played 48 games last season.

And he was useful. The Canadian shored up the club's defence as well as scoring eight goals and helping set up 21 other strikes in 48 appearances.

The former college hockey star is now being guided by Capitals new coach, ex-National Hockey League (NHL) defenceman Dmirti Khristich.

The quiet-spoken, Ukraine-born, former right-wing for leading NHL clubs, Washington Capitals, Los Angeles Kings, Boston Bruins and Toronto Maple Leafs, has introduced a new professionalism into the Capital combine.

And the 48-year-old has used his knowledge to include several Russian players in the squad.

They are currently getting used to a new culture, a new hockey

culture as blending with their new team-mates.

D'Orazio said: "Having more games before the regular season is good for the guys, especially with all the new faces we have in the dressing-room.

"We have a new coach as well so we need time to learn a new system and tactics."

He added: "We come to training to work. We're train at high-tempo and we have bike and gym sessions.

"You do the work in the beginning and hopefully it pays off in the end. It is definitely more professional."

D'Orazio admitted that language can be a barrier but Capitals are fortunate that several player can speak English and Russian and, of course, the new coach speaks both languages after his lengthy spell in North American hockey.

The player added: "Of course, there is also sign language and it's not been too bad.

"Guys have been playing hockey for some time and once you are on the ice the guys feed off each other whether we speak the same language or not."

On Clan, he said: "I was at the game they played against the University of Manitoba but it will be a learning curve for us and all teams as there are a lot of new guys in the Elite League this year."

The other semi-final on Saturday features Dundee Stars and Fife Flyers (face-off 2pm) and the Tayside team's coach, Omar Pacha, could have Canadian forwards Patrick Lee and Marc-Olivier Mimar making their debuts. Their arrival has been delayed because of red-tape.

Ice hockey – Pacha demands commitment



Action from last season at Murrayfield.

Picture by Ian Coyle

Spend a short time with Dundee Stars' coach Omar Pacha and you will understand the word commitment.

The talkative and approachable Canadian desperately wants success for his low-budget Tayside team.

To achieve his targets he will demand 100 per cent effort from his hand-picked squad.

That is in every game and on every shift.

It was obvious after chatting midweek post-challenge that he was not 100 per cent happy with the performance of his men.

One simple phrase summed up his mood. He said: "We were not the hardest working team."

Stars, incidentally, won 3-2 despite that situation prevailing and they are still as the coach says: "Work in progress."

But Pacha will demand extra when Dundee square-up to arch rivals Fife Flyers in the inaugural Scottish Elite Cup semi-final at Murrayfield today (2pm face-off).

The match-up continues an intense rivalry between the clubs who are only a short distance apart geographically.

Pacha wants a huge distance between the work rate of his side and that of Flyers coach Todd Dutiaume's side.

The Tayside team's coach could be boosted by the inclusion of talented imported forwards Patrick Lee and Marc-Olivier Mimar.

Calgary-born Lee is a raw talent. He's 22 and has just spent the last three seasons in college hockey in North America.

Right-wing Mimar from Rosemere is 25 years old. He's spent the last five seasons with the University of Quebec-Trois-Rivieres posting good numbers.

Their arrival has been delayed by red-tape but Pacha has been in touch and they have been in training, on and off the ice. They know what is expected of them.

Not icing is experienced former Nottingham Panthers right-wing or centre, Toronto-born Chris Lawrence.

The 30-year-old former National Hockey League draft pick by Tampa Bay Lightning has enjoyed two spells in the Lace City and has also iced for British clubs Coventry Blaze and Sheffield Steelers.

The 6ft 4in forward arrived in Britain after an extensive career in the rough-tough North American leagues. He is expected to be a leader.

Today's tie is bound to increase the pulse rates of the club's passionate fans and Pacha wants to see that energy mirrored on the ice by his squad.

The former Manchester Storm playcaller, who also doubles as Dundee's general manager, is excited by what lies ahead. He wants to give fans something to cheer and keep them coming to watch his young and energetic team.

Stars carry a few bumps and bruises from the challenge double-header with Edinburgh Capitals into the tie at Murrayfield but Pacha wants to be in Sunday's final (6.30pm), not the third and fourth-place play-off (3pm). Both games at Murayfield.

The other semi-final features Edinburgh v Braehead Clan (face-off 5.30pm) and tickets are still available.

One thing to watch are the diversions around Murrayfield because of flood prevention work so look out for the signs.

Speedway – Monarchs secure win double



Erik Riss played a key roll in Friday's double-header against Workington Comets and Ipswich Witches. Picture by Jack Cupido

SGB Championship: Edinburgh Monarchs 48, Ipswich Witches 44; Edinburgh Monarchs 52, Workington Comets 40.

Edinburgh Monarchs wrapped up six points as they bid to secure a place in the end-of-season Championship play-offs.

They edged high-flying Ipswich Witches 48-44 after seeing off lowly Workington Comets 52-40.

Monarchs looked to be coasting to victory over the Suffolk side when they led 35-24 after ten races.

But the English combine won Heat 11 6-3 after a tactical ride from Danny King to close the gap to 38-30.

And back-to-back 4-2 scorelines in Heat 13 and 14 saw the lead shrink to 45-41.

But Ricky Wells took second place behind former Monarchs

favourite Rory Schlein in the final race with Monarchs team-mate Erik Riss third for a 48-44 win.

Earlier, former Monarchs skipper Craig Cook powered to 14 points for Workington Comets.

But none of his team-mates made double figures and Monarchs took full advantage.

Erik Riss top scored with 14 for the home side with Ricky Wells next best on ten points with skipper Sam Masters, making his comeback after injury, collecting eight points.

Police Scotland throws support behind Suicide Prevention Week



Police Scotland has thrown its support behind Suicide Prevention Week 2017.

If you can read between the lines, you can save lives. That's the message Choose Life continues to send out to people in Scotland to mark this year's Suicide Prevention Week (4 – 10 September 2017).

Last year, 728 people in Scotland took their own lives. The emotional impact on families, friends and communities bereaved by suicide is devastating and can have long lasting negative effects on those left behind.

The continuing Choose Life 'read between the lines' campaign,

asks everyone to be alert to the warning signs of suicide in people close to them. The message is:

“...if you’re worried about someone, such as a friend, family member or workmate, asking them directly about their feelings can help to save their life.”

Chief Superintendent John McKenzie said, “We are working with partners across many communities in Scotland, handing out leaflets, talking about suicide and suicide prevention, with the aim of providing information and where needed, signposting to places where help can be provided.”

The campaign acknowledges that signs of suicide can be difficult to spot, but encourages people to take all signs of distress seriously, even if it seems a person is living a normal life. It also aims to assure people that asking a person about what’s troubling them can make a positive difference.

People who have tried to take their life often talk movingly about reaching the point where they could see no alternative. Despite this, they also had a strong desire to live but wanted someone to intervene and stop them from ending their life. This helps us understand that the words and actions of others are important and by taking a minute to show you care and asking directly about suicide, you could change their life.

Police Scotland’s largest and most ethnically diverse

intake complete training



Police Scotland's largest ever intake of new officers has today officially joined the ranks.

213 recruits, who began training in June, took to the Parade Square at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan, this morning in the presence of Deputy Chief Constable Johnny Gwynne QPM, other senior officers, invited guests as well as family and friends.

The record breaking class is also the most ethnically diverse group to pass through SPC Tulliallan in Police Scotland's history. Included in the intake were the first group of black and minority ethnic (BME) recruits to complete the recently launched Introduction to Policing course, led by the Police Scotland Positive Action Team in January and February 2017.

The four-week programme offered potential applicants an insight into day-to-day life as a police officer and an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the application and selection process as well as provide peer support to each other during the process via a closed Facebook group.

The second course has resulted in an increased number of applications to join Police Scotland, with more BME applicants due to start their initial training at Scottish Police College, Tulliallan, later this month. A third course is currently underway in Aberdeen.

Deputy Chief Constable Johnny Gwynne QPM said: "I am extremely encouraged to see so many people willing to serve as police officers, helping to keep Scotland's communities safe. They have all put in a great deal of personal commitment and hard work to reach this milestone in their training, which I know will continue as they embark on their public service across

the country.”

He continued: “Policing in Scotland is carried out by consent, and one of the best ways to achieve this is to have a police service which reflects the communities we serve. A diverse workforce benefits the whole country and officers who have something in common with their communities can find it easier to understand cultural differences, enabling them to build trust and confidence.

“Through the Introduction to Policing project we are working hard to ensure any perceived barriers to applying to Police Scotland are dispelled or removed and by highlighting to people from all social, economic, cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds that policing is an employer of choice for BME communities.”

All of the newly qualified constables will now move onto local training for a week before hitting the beat in policing divisions across the country for their two year probationary period.

Of the new officers passing out today, 37% are women. This is one of the highest ever percentages of women in a class at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan.

Police Scotland remains keen to receive applications from people interested in joining the service across Scotland, and in particular women and people from under-represented groups including the BME communities

Chief Constable granted special leave following a complaint from colleague



Chief Constable Phil Gormley has been granted special leave following a complaint made against him by a member of his Force Executive.

He denies the allegations and hopes to resume in post after the investigation.

He said: "I have been notified by the SPA of a complaint made against me. This complaint originates from a member of the Force Executive.

"In the interests of the office of Chief Constable and the broader interests of Police Scotland, I have sought and been granted special leave to enable this matter to be properly assessed. I deny and reject the allegations and will co-operate with the SPA's assessment and procedures. It is my intention to resume my full duties when this matter has been resolved."

Huge Amount Raised by Big Hearts & Save the Children's

EMF Running Team



Big Hearts have teamed up with Save the Children at the Edinburgh Marathon Festival (EMF), enabling supporters to raise an outstanding £7,856 which will go towards local projects for vulnerable children and families.

Back in January, Big Hearts and Save the Children launched a conjoint team of runners for the EMF – the first partnership of its kind between the two charities who are both partners of Hearts FC.

25 supporters took up the challenge in May running on behalf of the Club at the EMF races, whilst raising a total of £7,856.00! The funds will be split 50/50 between Big Hearts and Save the Children and will provide a fantastic help to run local projects in the community, including Big Hearts' Kinship Care programme and Save the Children's schools based FAST programme (Families and schools together).

Big Hearts are naturally extremely proud of this collective achievement and have said a big 'thank you' to all the runners. They are very grateful for all the efforts and commitment to support Big Hearts.

Charlotte Cailliez, Big Hearts' Interim Communications & Fundraising Officer said:

"We have been amazed to see the commitment from Hearts fans in supporting Big Hearts and Save the Children at the Edinburgh Marathon Festival. We would like to thank each of the 25 runners for their great efforts and this superb collective achievement. For our first participation at the event, the funds raised are beyond our expectations. Big Hearts is now in a position to help even more vulnerable families across our existing programmes of support and we are very grateful for

this.”

Laura Porteous, Save the Children’s Scotland Fundraiser said:

“A big well done to all of our runners who took part in the Edinburgh Marathon Festival and endured months of gruelling training. Out of all the charities they could have fundraised for, they chose Save the Children and Big Hearts, pledging their support for local children. We want to celebrate every one of them today and we’re humbled by their efforts. We hope they are as proud of their major accomplishment as we are.”

Fund boost to help older people



Hundreds of older people in Scotland will benefit thanks to a £72,000 funding boost.

Bield will use the funds to provide additional services for residents, service users and their families.

They including dining out experiences for people with dementia, IT projects and social activities.

The money is from the Scottish Government’s People and Communities Fund,

Kevin Rowe, fundraiser, said: “This substantial funding opens up new possibilities to enrich the lives of so many people across our developments.

“For every older person whose quality of life improves,

family, friends and carers also stand to gain immensely.”

Kevin Stewart, Minister for Housing, said: “Our People and Communities Fund enables communities and organisations to identify what matters most to them.”

Evening support services in Kirkintilloch and Falkirk, weekly exercise groups in Fife, two new projects aimed at enabling tenants and residents to make the most of new technology and garden improvements in Biggar are included.

K9 Conference to tackle illegal importation of dogs



This Scottish Animal Week the Scottish SPCA has announced a new K9 Conference to be held on 9 November with the aim of tackling the multimillion pound puppy trade and illegal importation of dogs to the UK once and for all.

The conference is scheduled to be opened by Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Roseanna Cunningham and hosted by the University of Edinburgh with support from Dr Jo Williams of the Clinical and Health Psychology department.

Scotland’s animal welfare charity continues to suffer first-hand the devastating effects of puppy farming and are more determined than ever to raise public awareness and tackle this issue once and for all.

Scottish SPCA Animal Rescue and Rehoming Centre Superintendent Sharon Comrie said, “We have issued a number of warnings to

the public about the cruel reality of the puppy trade, particularly following the high profile Brownlie case last year, and more recently prolific puppy trader Gorman. Sadly, there is considerably more work to be done to bring an end to this horrendous trade.

“Lucy, the Chihuahua, was brought to us last month at around four to five weeks old after being bought by a member of public from the back of a car boot for £800.

“Despite paying this large sum of money, the member of public soon found herself out of her depth when the vet bills started piling up. Lucy was signed over to us a few days after being bought.

“Even with extensive vet care and 24hour supervision from me and other trained staff members here at the Society, Lucy was too ill to survive. Shortly after coming to us she was found to have fluid in her abdomen and an under-developed liver.

“Despite only being in my care for a few short weeks, I am devastated at her loss. It is beggars belief that these puppy farmers think so little of an animal’s welfare as to remove them from their mum before they are even fit enough to survive.”

Chief Superintendent Mike Flynn added, “In Lucy’s case, she had the best possible veterinary treatment available. Money and time were not issues and she still did not survive.

“Whoever sold Lucy undoubtedly sold the rest of the litter who may also be suffering from similar medical issues.

“Our Special Investigations Unit spearhead Operation Delphin, a multi-agency task force specifically focused on stopping the illegal puppy trade.

“This new conference is aimed at bringing experts from across the UK together to create a more robust strategy to bring an

end to the suffering of dogs like Lucy.

“It is vital that we work together to ensure the health and welfare of animals, and bring an end to this prolific trade.”

South of Scotland MSP Emma Harper, who has been campaigning for an end to Puppy Trafficking since her election in 2016, said, “As an owner of three amazing rescue dogs myself, I would like to take the opportunity to encourage everyone to consider rescuing a dog instead of buying a pup, and if this is not an option, ensure the dog is coming from a responsible and registered breeder as this is the only way we can stop puppy trafficking and unscrupulous breeding. I will continue to work closely with the Scottish SPCA, and the Scottish Government to bring an end to the horrors of puppy trafficking.”

Anyone concerned about the welfare of an animal should contact the Scottish SPCA animal helpline on 03000 999 999.

Photo by Scottish SPCA

Sailing – Port Edgar crew in Euro final



Port Edgar Yacht Club are sponsoring this crew in the final of the European Sailing Champions League

A squad from South Queensferry-based Port Edgar Yacht Club (PEYC) are the only British team in the final of the European Sailing Champions League.

Helm Callum Calder plus Iain Dick, Callum Reid and Ramsay Leuchers as crew, travel to Porto Cervo, Sardinia at the end of this month,

The final brings together 31 crews from 12 European nations and the crew have already taken part in races in St Petersburg, Russia, and in St Moritz, Switzerland.

PEYC are sponsoring the crew and Ian Hards, the club's development officer, said: "This result is testament to the success of the race training initiative at the club.

"If anyone is interested in being a future sailing champion, this superb centre of excellence at the Port Edgar Yacht Club is where to look"

Cilla – The Musical Heads to Edinburgh



Cilla – The Musical, which made its world premiere yesterday at the Liverpool Empire in Cilla Black's hometown, is heading to the Edinburgh Playhouse.

It's the extraordinary story of the ordinary girl from Liverpool whose teenage dreams of stardom lead her to becoming one of Britain's best-loved entertainers of all time.

This spectacular and heart-warming musical adaptation of the critically acclaimed ITV mini-series based on the early life of Cilla Black, by BAFTA award winner, Jeff Pope

Cilla – The Musical is on at the Playhouse in a five-night run from 19th-23rd September.

It's an introduction by a young John Lennon to music mogul Brian Epstein that changes Priscilla White's life forever. By the age of just 25 she would be known as singer and TV Star Cilla Black, Number One selling artist and at the fore-front of the Brit-Pop music scene. The musical score is the ultimate soundtrack to the 60's including Cilla's greatest hits Anyone Who Had a Heart, Alfie and Something Tells Me, Twist and Shout by the Beatles, California Dreamin by The Mamas and The Papas' and many more.

Full casting for Bill Kenwright's new musical features: Andrew Lancel (Brian Epstein); Carl Au (Bobby); Amy Bridges (Rose Willis); Gemma Brodrick-Bower (Pauline); Paul Broughton (John White); Bill Caple (Ringo Starr); Tom Christian (Kenny Willis); Tom Dunlea (Hutch); Pauline Fleming (Big Cilla); Joshua Gannon (Paul McCartney); Billie Hardy (Pat); and Michael Hawkins (John Lennon).

They join the previously announced Kara Lily Hayworth as Cilla, who beat thousands of hopefuls in nationwide open auditions for the coveted role. More than 120 Cilla hopefuls auditioned in the Scottish capital, when the open auditions came to the Edinburgh Playhouse earlier this year in May.

The musical reunites Tom Dunlea, Michael Hawkins and Gemma Brodrick-Bower, all of whom starred in Jeff Pope's original ITV mini-series Cilla, on which the musical is based. It also reunites Andrew Lancel with the role of Epstein, which he played on stage to great critical acclaim in Epstein – The Man Who Made The Beatles. Andrew is best known to TV audiences as super-villain Frank Foster in Coronation Street and as DI Neil Manson in the long-running ITV television series The Bill.

For those who loved Cilla Black this is a show not to be missed. Tickets available [here](#)

Borders rail success story



A section of the Borders Railway by Kenny Lam

The Borders Railway shows no sign of losing momentum as it continues to capture the world's attention.

VisitScotland's international marketing campaign to promote the rail link has reached almost 35 million people in the last two years, helping to inspire visitors to explore Edinburgh, Midlothian and the Scottish Borders.

Over 2.6million people have travelled on the Borders Railway since it re-opened two years ago. Recently, a unique experience offering passengers, for the first time, the opportunity to board a steam train in West Lothian and Fife to cross the Forth Bridge and onwards to the new Borders Railway proved a phenomenal success with 1680 passengers taking the journey over just four days.

The 31-mile Borders Railway route stretching from Edinburgh Waverley to Tweedbank was officially opened by HM The Queen on 9 September 2015.

Some of the key successes of the Borders Railway include:

More than 261,000 views of three Facebook Live videos of the first steam train experience on 6 August 2017 generating 1395 comments across the three posts.

More than 1.1million views of a two-minute Borders Railway film produced by VisitScotland in partnership with leading US online and lifestyle publisher Matador Network

More than 1.4million online views of Borders Railway films

produced by VisitScotland in the last two years

Over 2.6million passengers have travelled on the Borders railway line since it re-opened in September 2015, with more than 65% of visitors that used the line stating that the railway line was a factor in their decision to make their trip.

Almost 35 million potential visitors reached as a result of marketing of the Borders Railway by VisitScotland in 2016-2017.

A 10.6 per cent rise in visitors to Abbotsford House in Melrose, and a 9.1 per cent rise in visitors to Crichton Castle in Pathhead, between 2015 and 2016.*

An 8 per cent rise in tourism employment in the Scottish Borders, and a 4.1 per cent increase in Midlothian.

As part of the Borders Railway Blueprint partnership, VisitScotland seeks to maximize benefits from the new Borders Railway. £367,000 was invested in a unique three-year (2015-2017) national and international marketing campaign to put the new Railway on the map. The funding was provided by Scottish Borders Council and Midlothian Council, with match funding from the Scottish Government.

VisitScotland will continue to work with partners to promote the Borders Railway to national and international markets with digital marketing activity in Canada and Germany planned in the next year

Speedway – Havelock says Berwick looked the part



Gary Havelock (left) praised Berwick riders for their performance at Ipswich. Picture Nigel Duncan Media

Gary Havelock believes Berwick Bandits rode better than the score suggests at high-flying Ipswich Witches.

The team manger saw his men go down 56-36 and Bandits face another stiff test on Saturday when Edinburgh Monarchs visit (tapes up 7pm).

And Havelock said: “All the guys had their moments at Ipswich and they got dug in.

“Witches are a good side and they’re not in the top two for nothing so we were right up against it to get a result.

“Saying that, we looked the part.”

Nick Morris top scored with 13 points for Bandits with skipper Kevin Doolan chipping in with seven.

Top rider for Witches was former Monarchs racer Rory Schlein on 14 points followed by guest Lewis Kerr on 13 and Kyle Newman with 11.

Film Review: ‘A Ghost Story’

A Ghost Story

Direction: David Lowery

Screenplay: David Lowery

Cast: Casey Affleck, Rooney Mara

Length: 92 minutes

Rating: 12A

'A Ghost Story' examines the universal themes of love and loss, its effects on the human desire for connection over time and memory. A classic human story told with utterly original and completely unpredictable imagination. Starring Oscar winner Casey Affleck as 'C' and Oscar nominee Rooney Mara as 'M', this film is shot entirely in a square shaped aspect ratio, representing the apparently ordinary lives of the central characters. We follow their apparently ordinary story from their house day in and day out.

A score of tense violins are the only suggestion that the extraordinary may be approaching, with the noises of the train horns blowing in the distance and birds and insects in the surrounding trees amplifying the claustrophobia of the summer heat in normal suburbia. Suddenly, we discover C has been killed in a car accident, only to awaken as a ghost and return home to his girlfriend whom is left behind. Everything changes from here.

As the score vanishes, so do their hopes and dreams for a future together. All safety and security that once existed is gone while painfully long static takes heighten the intensity of loneliness and isolation with no music or dialogue for extended sequences creating further emphasis.

'A Ghost Story' is similar in style to the bleak tones of the 2015 film 'Macbeth' by Justin Kurzel as well as the 2014 film 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' and other works by Wes Anderson through highlighting symmetrical lines and vanishing points, as well as the 4:3 aspect ratio and dolly camera movements.

As time passes, C's ghost interacts with other residents of the house while the narrative jumps back and forth between

life and death, before and after the accident, filling in the painting of the story piece by piece.

From the urban lives of the small town to the big city, to the rural wilderness, we are taken on a journey through time all from the same constant location with twists and surprises in abundance. Our fears of mortality as individuals and humanity as a species are all touched on creating a profound impression long after the film is over. Both spiritual and haunting, sad but not depressing, this piece of work is the epitome of arthouse filmmaking.

It is the absolute antidote to the blockbuster film franchises traditionally released in summer.

Is there something there?

7/10

Field hockey – Shepherd warning to rivals



Duncan Riddell has now left Grange.

Picture Nigel Duncan Media

Bromac Kelburne embark on their quest for a 14th-straight Division One title with a clash against newly-promoted Inverleith at Glasgow's National Hockey Centre.

Grange lost out narrowly to Kelburne last season after slipping up 3-2 to Western Wildcats in their final match at Fettes.

Kelburne took full advantage and grasped the silverware with a 2-0 win at Edinburgh University.

Shepherd's target for the season is to keep winning but they have to do that without the services of striker Lee Morton who is now with top English side Reading.

Former Scotland midfielder Michael Christie makes his comeback as Inverleith return to the top division after two seasons out.

Coach Stuart Neave, who has Olympian Stephen Dick in his squad, said: "This season is all about consolidating our place in Division One."

Grange coach David Knipe would only say: "We aim to continue to develop our style of play."

Scotland international Duncan Riddell has left but set piece expert Dan Coultas, a former Great Britain squad player, has moved to the Raeburn Place side from neighbours Edinburgh University.

Grange travel to Clydesdale who have a new coach in Callum McLeod while Grove Menzieshill, who were third last year, start their campaign with a Dundee derby against promoted Dundee Wanderers.

Western Wildcats have a home fixture against Hillhead who have former Scottish and Great Britain internationalist Mark Ralph as coach.

Uddingston and Edinburgh University don't feature in the first week of matches.

Paterson pledge to grow Chamber



Archie Paterson (centre) outlines his plans as he starts a three-year term as president of Midlothian and East Lothian Chamber of Commerce. Picture by Nigel Duncan Media

New Midlothian and East Lothian Chamber of Commerce president Archie Paterson has pledged to continue to grow the organisation.

Mr Paterson, who is also the centre manager at manager of the Midlothian Innovation Centre, takes over from East Lothian-based Keith Barbour who has completed his three-year term.

And the former banker said: "The chamber has developed over the last number of years to try and grow and support the businesses in Midlothian and East Lothian.

"The economic conditions have been difficult but there is a real opportunity now to grasp the nettle and the chamber is here to help businesses increase their profitability.

"By networking we can help find other opportunities to buy from and sell to.

"My aim is to develop this further and to grow the membership of the chamber to the benefit of all its members."

He added: "It is accepted that previously in the world of finance the bank manager was there to provide a sounding board and provide a degree of advice to businesses.

"To a degree banks are not providing that any more in terms of a dedicated bank manager.

“There is an opportunity through the chamber to find like-minded people to help your business grow and develop.”

Mr Paterson’s appointment was confirmed at the organisation’s annual general meeting in Edinburgh College.

Members also agreed that the currently membership fee would remain the same.

Mr Barbour said the board felt the best way of encouraging more members was to keep the current rates in place.

Neil Fraser, a long-serving board member, has also stood down. George Archibald, the chamber’s chief executive officer, said that membership retention was strong.

And he said that the chamber continues to grow despite tough economic times.

He urged non-members to look at what the chamber had to offer and to consider joining.

A full programme of activities was planned for the next 12 months including breakfast meetings, seminars and workshops.

Netwalking and Netgolf were new innovations this year and would be continued.

And so would mentoring for schools and embryonic businesses.

He added that chambers continue to influence policy at local government and national level.

And he welcomed a new Chamber Partner in Edinburgh College which had thousands of talented students plus facilities like meeting rooms which businesses could tap into.

Bert Cunningham celebrates his 88th birthday by playing Walking Football



Bert Cunningham celebrated his 88th birthday playing walking football for Edinburgh City at Meadowbank Sports Centre this afternoon.

18 Players turned up for the session and Bert left the pitch to a well deserved standing ovation before tea and cake was served.

The inspirational pensioner has been playing the sport for almost two years and is the oldest player in Scotland.

Bert has been physically active all his life participating in football, cricket and athletics. As a young man he was a competitive cyclist and he continued cycling until a few years ago averaging 120 miles per week in the saddle.

He was also heavily involved with the Boys Brigade in several roles including physical training instructor and in his early 40's he took up trampolining, coaching the sport for over 40 years at Meadowbank.

Bert said: "I saw an advert about a new session starting at Meadowbank in January 2015 so I went along. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have been a regular ever since, rarely missing the weekly sessions.

"They are a good bunch of lads we all go for a cup of tea and a good chat after the game which makes it a great social occasion"

When asked how long he would continue played his reply was "As long as I am physically able!"

On learning of Bert's achievement, fellow goalkeeper and Scotland Hall of Fame internationalist Alan Rough sent his best wishes and told the Edinburgh Reporter. "I'd like to send my best wishes to Bert on his birthday and I hope he has a great day and keeps a clean sheet. I take an interest in walking football and helped launch sessions at Partick Thistle a couple of weeks ago so I know how competitive and strenuous

it can be so to still be playing at the age of 88 is absolutely fantastic and it is to his credit that he has kept himself fit enough to continue participating. Hopefully Bert has many seasons left between the posts. He really is an inspiration to all."

With Meadowbank closing in a few months Bert will have been one of the few individuals involved with the centre during it's entire sporting history – an incredible achievement and he is a truly inspirational role model encouraging older adults to engage in an active, healthy lifestyle.

Walking Football is one of the fastest growing sports in the country with thousands of men and a few women in their 50's, 60's, 70's and even older, playing the game each week. The Edinburgh City group currently play at Meadowbank Sports Centre every Thursday from 12.30 to 14.00, newcomers always welcome – Tel: 0771 971 4932.

Action Party now own Bellfield Church

A community group in Edinburgh has become the first organisation in an urban area to benefit from community right to buy powers.



Action Party has today taken ownership of the former Portobello Old Parish Church with a view to transforming it into a multi-use community hub.

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives communities the right to buy land and assets under certain conditions. While the powers have been used widely across rural Scotland, this is the first time permission has been granted to a group within a city to proceed with a purchase.

Land Reform Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said: “Congratulations to Action Porty who have become the first organisation to use the community right to buy powers in an urban area.

“Our ambitious and progressive land reform policies have already delivered huge benefits to rural communities across Scotland.

“It’s great to see community right to buy now being used to unlock the potential of land in urban communities. I know other community groups will be inspired by Action Porty’s success.

“I wish them the best for the future, and look forward to seeing the group’s plans to construct a community hub progress.”

John Lewis Edinburgh to recruit 23 Partners for the festive season

John Lewis Edinburgh is searching for 23 temporary Partners (staff) to join their branch team, ahead of the busiest shopping period of the year.

John Lewis Edinburgh is recruiting new Partners to assist customers in preparing for the festive season, with positions available across a number of departments including the John Lewis Christmas Shop, electrical and home technology and gifts, as well as behind-the-scenes stock management (replenishment) roles. John Lewis is also recruiting across

its Distribution networks – for warehouse and driving roles.

✖ Barry Blamire, Head of Branch, John Lewis Edinburgh, said: “We’re looking for enthusiastic and energetic Partners to join our team in Edinburgh to help customers find the perfect Christmas gifts for their loved-ones. As part of our unique Partnership structure, successful applicants will become part of our co-owned business, and join fellow Partners in helping to make Christmas special for our customers.”

All Christmas temporary staff will receive training to ensure John Lewis customers continue to receive the highest level of customer service with every shopping experience. And in 2017, for the second year running, the company was named the most sought-after employer in the UK by LinkedIn.

Ola Kargul, Womenswear Selling Assistant, John Lewis Edinburgh, is an example of how far a temporary Christmas role can take you. Having joined the business last year, Ola is now a Permanent partner.

Ola Kargul at John Lewis Edinburgh, said: “I was planning to only work over the Christmas period but I thoroughly enjoyed working for John Lewis. At the end of my contract, I applied for one of the new temporary positions which resulted from the refurbishment work taking place in the shop, supporting the existing teams as several departments were relocated. I then secured a full time position within the womenswear team. I love my job and have quickly become part of this large team, helping organise the staffing rotas across the different sections in this department. I feel I’ve achieved a lot in my short time with the Partnership so far.”

Those interested in applying should visit www.jlplpjobs.com where vacancies are now advertised.

Jardine demands meeting over flightpaths

MP for Edinburgh West Christine Jardine has asked the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for an urgent meeting to discuss Edinburgh Airport's latest proposals on flightpath changes, particularly effecting communities in South Queensferry and Cramond.

The proposals, if approved, could see an increase in flights over South Queensferry and little change to current situation in Cramond where residents have complained about constant noise from arriving jets.



Christine Jardine MP for Edinburgh West

Ms Jardine, who has launched an Early Day Motion at Westminster, met with officials from Edinburgh Airport last week with Liberal Democrat colleagues, to discuss the issue, said:

"This flight path proposals have caused enormous concern in communities across Edinburgh West.

"The airport is hugely important to Edinburgh for both jobs and improved infrastructure, however it is clear that there has been breakdown in communication leaving local communities feeling both ill-informed and disappointed about the current proposals.

"Edinburgh airport has enjoyed a good relationship with surrounding communities in the past but these latest proposals

are putting this relationship at risk.

“I am seeking an urgent meeting with the CAA to discuss how any further damage can be avoided. This is what communities in Edinburgh West deserve.”

Neil Lennon agrees new three-year-deal



Hibs Head Coach Neil Lennon has committed his future to the Club until 2020 after agreeing a new three-year-deal to take the team forward.

The Northern Irishman led the club to automatic promotion by winning the Scottish Championship last season and were narrowly beaten in the Scottish Cup semi-final.

This campaign started with a 3-1 win over Partick Thistle which was followed by a memorable 3-2 victory over Rangers at Ibrox.

The club also have a great chance of progressing to the semi-final of the League Cup with a home tie against Livingston coming up.

Lennon said: “I am delighted to have signed the deal. I’ve made no secret of my enjoyment of my time at Easter Road and my desire to stay on at Hibernian.

“All of the parts are in place to build a strong future. We have a strong group of players, we are seeing talented youngsters like Fraser Murray and Ryan Porteous force their

way into first-team contention, and we have good, supportive people running the Club.

“The infrastructure is first class, it’s a great club, and now I want to do all I can to make it a successful one.”

Leeann Dempster, Chief Executive, said: “We are delighted that Neil wants to commit to the club. He is an ambitious guy, he wants to win silverware, and he brings that mentality with him. We look forward to working together to bring supporters more of the success they have enjoyed over the past two seasons.”

Dog owners across Scotland could face criminal charges if their dog attacks an assistance dog.



Dog owners across Scotland could face criminal charges if their dog attacks an assistance dog.

From January 2016 to September 2017, 25 dogs from Guide Dogs Scotland were attacked by other canines. Nine animals had to undergo vet treatment, leaving their owners without their lifeline support during the recovery period.

(Police Scotland – Guide Dog Attacks video. You can also watch a version of the [Police Scotland – Guide Dog Attacks With](#)

[Burned-in Subtitles.\)](#)

22 of the aggressor dogs were not on a lead or tied up in when the incidents happened, with all but one of the attacks happening in a public place. Four people were also hurt in the attacks while 19 owners were left emotionally affected by the incidents.

Police Scotland is publishing a film highlighting the impact of a dog attacking a registered assistance dog, and reminding the public, and its officers, of the seriousness with which such an incident will be treated.

Chief Superintendent John McKenzie, Police Scotland Safer Communities, said: "As a nation of dog lovers, no-one wants to hear of an animal being injured, let alone a highly trained assistance dog which offers a lifeline to its owner.

"It is the responsibility of the dog owner to ensure an animal in your care is under control at all times, whether that's in a public space, such as a park, or in a private area, like a garden.

"Police Scotland is committed to raising awareness of the issue of attacks on assistance dogs and the traumatic effects of these incidents, some of which can be felt years down the line."

As a result of changes to Section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs (Scotland) Act 1991, any person in charge of a dog, whether they are its owner or not, can be charged if the dog in their care attacks an assistance dog.

Guide dog owner Elaine McKenzie is featured in the video talking about the effect on her life and on her dog Una after she was attacked while the pair were out shopping: "I can only liken the noise she made to that of a screaming child, she was in so much distress. Shop staff tried to pull the attacking dog away but it was relentless. Una bled a lot and had several

puncture wounds in her chest.

“For two weeks after the attack, I couldn’t get out and about with Una. My independence was taken away. It then took two months of gentle, patient work, with the support of Guide Dogs staff, to get Una back to working confidently.

“Fortunately, she recovered, but it took quite a long time for us both to get enough confidence to get out and about like usual.

“If that attack had been any worse Una may not have been able to work again and my mobility would be gone. Una was still suffering after-effects from the attack for some time and was hesitant about going into the store again.”

Niall Foley is Guide Dogs Scotland’s Engagement Manager and said some animals are so badly injured or traumatized that they have to be withdrawn from service: “An Attack on a guide dog can be devastating for the owner and their dog. It can leave someone with sight loss traumatized, isolated at home and robbed of their independence and freedom.

“We urge all dog owners to be responsible when they meet guide dogs and other assistance dogs. We welcome Police Scotland ensuring their officers are aware of the serious effects of an attack on an assistance dog, and their commitment to keeping our guide dog owners safe.”

You can also watch a version of the [Police Scotland – Guide Dog Attacks With Burned-in Subtitles](#)