


Speedway – beaten Monarchs regroup to shoot down Comets



Edinburgh Monarchs Alex Harkess (left) with fellow-director and ex-rider Andrew Tully in the pits at Armadale. Picture by Nigel Duncan Media

Edinburgh Monarchs spokesman Graham Muncie said the team will re-group after suffering their first defeat of the season.

The Armadale-based club entertain Workington Comets in the SGB Championship on Friday after skidding to a 57-34 defeat at arch rivals Glasgow Tigers.

 Muncie said Monarchs were routinely last from the gate and could make very little impact on a fired-up and on-form Tigers outfit.

He said the match had started promisingly with the score all square at 12-12 after four races and Glasgow then lost the services of Nike Lunna.

The Finnish rider suffered a high speed crash in Heat Three which saw the youngster taken to hospital for x-rays.

Tigers then hammered in three consecutive 5-1 advantages and Muncie said: "Heat 5 was a particular sore one for the Monarchs as a comfortable looking shared heat turned to disaster when both Sam Masters and Josh Pickering came down, Masters hitting the fence heavily and on another night he may have pulled out of the remainder of the meeting.

"A share of the spoils then heat advantage due to a tactical double points ride stemmed the tide but this was temporary as Tigers turned the screw again over the final heats with ex-

Monarch Dan Bewley the star of the show racing to his first maximum at Championship level.”

Monarch’s co-promoter Alex Harkess said: ‘We had a reasonable start but the wheels came off with the crash with Josh and Sam.

“We were not competitive out of the starts and we only had Mark (Riss) who seemed capable of winning a race.

“On the night we just weren’t competitive despite the boys putting their heart into it we could not get going at all.’

Grant Stott brings his one man show to The King’s – 7 May

With a professionally crafted mix of funny, awkward and embarrassing stories, outrageous radio clips, video, offensive reactions on social media and his own cult songs, Grant Stott lifts the lid on his 27 year journey in radio, TV and panto; from the moment he left Lothian and Borders Police, pounding the beat as PC Stott 35G, to treading the boards as a King’s Theatre Panto baddie!



Grant employs his natural charisma and sharp comic timing to expertly bring to life highlights of his working life spanning three decades; that includes falling foul of his bosses for moonlighting while in the force, challenging phone-ins live on air, inappropriate song choices, from him and other DJ’s, unedited news bulletins, TV shows that he’s successfully

killed off, dealing with Ofcom regulations and, of course, what it's actually like to scare children at Christmas.

What was "Daft Davie" trying to say to his Mum on the radio? How did a well-known Rangers player's name lead to Grant saying the worst possible swear word on the radio one Saturday morning? And how did THAT song about Fife that has become an internet sensation (over 200,000 views on YouTube don't you know) actually come about? All will be revealed in Grant Stott's new 12-inch version of Tales Behind The Mic.

Grant Stott, one of Radio Forth's longest serving DJ's ever, has stepped down from his hugely popular daytime radio show to take Tales From Behind The Mic on the road. Directed by long-time collaborators Andy Gray and Ryan Dewar and produced by The Gilded Balloon, the newly extended and re-structured production will tour to 12 venues across Scotland until Sunday 7 May 2017.

Following his appearances with legendary Scottish comedy actor Andy Gray in the sold out, Fringe First Winning "Kiss Me Honey, Honey!" in 2013 and the critically acclaimed "Willie And Sebastian" in 2015; Grant Stott stepped out all on his own at the Edinburgh Fringe in August 2016 with his first ever one man show "Tales From Behind The Mic".

We met up with Grant to find out about the show :

[Grant Stott talks to us about his one man show](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Sunday 07 May – Kings Theatre, 2 Leven St, Edinburgh, EH3 9LQ

Performance start time: 19.30 / Ticket prices: £17.50 /£15.50

Box Office: 0131 529 6000 /
<http://www.edtheatres.com/grantstott>

Thoughts on #Edinburgh2050

You still have time to add your voice to the City Vision 2050. It is a document which will shape the decision-making by the council and other public organisations in the capital



The City of Edinburgh Council is led by Cllr Andrew Burns. He is passionate about the idea of forming a city vision.

He said: "City visions bring people from all corners of a city together to focus on major needs, force cities to look ahead and to generate new ideas. A key lesson from all other cities is that successful vision-projects cannot be seen as the preserve of a single institution. City councils are well placed to co-ordinate and facilitate the project, but broad participation and engagement is critical if the project is to be a success.

"So, it is important that as many people as possible are part of this conversation. The key challenge will be reaching a cross-section of residents, businesses, partners and stakeholders across the city, to ensure the Edinburgh of the future is meaningful to all of us.

"One of the approaches to this is online engagement through open questions designed to capture challenges, ideas and opinions.

"So, do give your views on what you think makes Edinburgh great, what you feel could be better, and your own personal vision for #Edinburgh2050 on social media or at **edinburgh.org/2050**."

Councillor Lesley Hinds has been a councillor for over three

decades. She has made lots of changes to the city during that time.

In May 2017, when I step down from the City of Edinburgh Council, I will have worked as a councillor for 33 years. During this time I have stood and been elected in eight local council elections, serving under several different administrations and holding a variety of roles, from Leader of the Council to Lord Provost.

Times have changed a great deal since I was first elected to the Telford ward in 1984 – both in Edinburgh and further afield. Back then, the capital's population was in decline, several gap sites were in real need of development and countrywide unemployment was at a record high.

Since then, we have seen a rise in affordable homes, investment in the regeneration of some of Edinburgh's most deprived areas, not to mention top-quality developments and an increasingly talented workforce alongside an integrated transport system and world-class cultural offering.



Convener of Transport & Environment – Lesley Hinds

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So just think what could change over the next 33 years. As I prepare to retire from service, I look forward to the next generation of change-makers taking over and helping to shape the city's future, with the help of residents.



Marketing Edinburgh Chief Executive John Donnelly tells us

what Edinburgh needs to do in the future to compete on the global stage...

"I adore Edinburgh, from its rich culture and festivals to its stunning architecture and history. It's a city you can easily walk around, enjoy its green open spaces and sample some of Scotland's best food and drink. It's a world class centre of learning, research and technology. All these things make my job, promoting Edinburgh as one of the best places in the world to live, work, invest, study and visit, very easy.

"Or at least that is what I get told.

"Edinburgh doesn't need to be promoted, because it 'sells itself'. The reality is very different. Edinburgh operates on a global stage and competes for business against many other successful UK, European and worldwide cities. This fierce environment demands that we have to continually improve if we even want to maintain our current position in this marketplace. The world isn't sitting waiting to see what Edinburgh is going to do.



Last September the #Edinburgh2050 conversation was launched at the Edinburgh offices of Cortex. The Cortex Founder and Managing Director Peter Proud names Bill Gates as one of his former employers and friends. Cortex is a digital solutions company, and their system has been developed in partnership with Microsoft.

Here he tells us why Edinburgh needs to remain innovative – and encourage young people to embrace change – to ensure it is still a successful city in 2050.

"For centuries, Scotland and particularly Edinburgh has been home to some of the most innovative inventions of the modern world. From advances in technology to accounting practices, our Judiciary systems and democratic constitutions, Scotland

has had and continues to make ripples around the world as a nation of thought leaders.

“I think we should be celebrating the success of breakthrough works by the likes of Peter Higgs to show off the contribution Scotland is still making to the world, and to inspire future generations to follow suit.

“My vision for the Edinburgh of 2050 is for every child in the Capital, as part of their education, to realise that although Scotland is a small nation with regards to population and land mass, its contribution to the modern world has been pivotal to how everyone in the western (and increasingly all of) the modern world live their lives.



Hugh Rutherford tells us about the Edinburgh Business Forum's involvement in creating a vision for the city...

Mr Rutherford is Chair of Edinburgh Business Forum which aims to support the council in delivering its Strategy for Jobs, the five year plan launched in 2012. Under this scheme the goals are to encourage inward investment into the capital and to help the unemployed into work or learning.

The Edinburgh Business Forum, in conjunction with The City of Edinburgh Council, hosted a conversation with Edinburgh's key business sectors to ascertain their ideas and thoughts on the proposed new City Vision-2050. This conversation is but one of a series of such events being carried out to engage with residents, businesses and the institutions of the city, allowing everyone to have a say on what Edinburgh's City Vision should include.

Mr Rutherford explained: “A number of important points emerged from discussions, and it is hoped that more detailed discussions and outcomes will emerge as the business communities respond to the Council's excellent initiative.

“Successful City Visions have benefitted from having cross-party support at all levels, including political level, as well as drawing on broad long term themes which can be adjusted over time and continue to develop and evolve to meet a city’s needs in a highly competitive global world. The City Vision should have deliverable outcomes and requires a binding mechanism to drive real changes, with most City Visions often being orphaned at the point at publication.

“Our City Vision needs to lead change in the city, where often plans tend to reflect, rather than drive real change.



Julia Amour Director of Festivals Edinburgh told us:

“This year will see the Edinburgh Festivals celebrate our 70th anniversary, a remarkable achievement in a world where cultural trends seem to have an increasingly short shelf life. What has sustained the Festivals is an entrepreneurial spirit that sees them re-invented each year with a vast array of premieres, commissions and performances that are the envy of cities around the globe.

“So looking ahead to 2050 – which will come three years after our 100th anniversary – what would we hope to see in our festival city of the future?

“Edinburgh is a small city but its festivals put it onto the world stage. The journey to 2050 is about capitalising on that reputation and advantage. Some of this requires investment, some of it is about enhanced ambition but mostly it is about attitudinal shifts. To do this we must step up and look outwards, confident and bold in the ambition to take our city forward by putting culture at the heart of our success.



June Peebles

June Peebles is Chief Executive of Edinburgh Leisure which is the arms' length organisation which runs the council's leisure facilities. Here she offers her view on what Edinburgh might be like by 2050.

"As someone born and bred in the city, I truly believe Edinburgh is a fantastic place to live. It is a beautiful city that has so much to offer its residents and those that visit. I never tire of Edinburgh's stunning and varied architecture and the richness of the outdoor spaces we have on our doorstep. How many other cities can make claim to being the Festival City and yet offer easy access to the great outdoors? I like that Edinburgh is such a compact city, which is relatively easy to navigate (if you ignore the roadworks); it means you can pack a lot into your day.

"I try to start my day with a spot of physical activity. I love moving; it makes me feel good, it does me good and it also keeps me close to Edinburgh Leisure customers and employees. And, having visited sport and leisure facilities all over the UK, I know that we are fortunate in Edinburgh to have such a great range of facilities offering a vast array of activities for people of all ages and stages.



Jamie Coleman, Managing Director of CodeBase, gives us his insights into the impact developing technology will have on Edinburgh's future in the latest in our series of posts from thought leaders on the #Edinburgh2050 City Vision.

The world is currently undergoing massive changes due to technology. We will reach a point over the next few years where everyone in the world will be connected via mobile phones to the internet, and ever-cheaper technology means that everything that can be connected will be. This means that software is now at the heart of practically every aspect of life. The opportunity to transform the world in a positive way

by giving young, digital businesses the chance to grow is what CodeBase is all about.

If we are successful, by 2050 Edinburgh will be one of the world's most successful, progressive and entrepreneurial cities again – as we were in days gone by. This shift in technology will allow more people to be their own boss, and the days of working for faceless corporations may be a thing of the past. These new jobs will look as different to us as our jobs today would look to a farmer from 100 years ago. Machines are getting better and better at production-based tasks, and we see even highly skilled jobs increasingly being done by computers. Whilst computers may be better at jobs involving production, humans are better at creativity. So the Edinburgh of 2050 will not be about the traditional factory model of innovation, trying to make widgets for half a pence cheaper. Instead, success will come from brain power, good ideas and creativity. This will be in every sector of life – from medicine and engineering to travel and energy.

Nick Stewart, manager of the Sneaky Pete's music venue and campaigner for Music Is Audible.

My vision of Edinburgh in 2050 is a place full of music, arts and culture, that is affordable to live in and supportive of its own. The Festival is a cause for celebration, but we need a better year round arts scene.

Edinburgh is in danger of pricing out the next generation of entrepreneurs and artists. It's not right to have a situation where the arts and business are both run by those with the wealth, often inherited, to do so.

We need cheap retail, artistic and music space for independent businesses. Let's instil a culture of entrepreneurship in Edinburgh, where the businesses of the city are individual, independent, and special.



Ella Simpson, Chief Executive Officer of [Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council](#), shares her insight into the future of how Edinburgh's people and communities must come together to solve problems and overcome inequality.

My Dad was a shepherd – that might not seem relevant when considering a City Vision for 2050, but what he taught me was that you have to live and deal in the immediate while planning for the future. So with that in mind, what kind of city should we be planning for our grandchildren and great grandchildren?

It's hardly surprising that as a Third Sector in Edinburgh we start everything by thinking about people – and in 2050 the city will first and foremost be a collection of people. No matter how amazing the buildings are or the physical space is, the city has to live and breathe, and that's about how people feel – a sense of belonging, caring and connecting. As a Sector that is our gift to the city: we connect people, we believe in people and we care about people.

In 2050 what will help people to feel connected to each other, their community and their city?

We have to design our city to enable people to make connections in the very heart of our communities. Our challenge is to support and stimulate our communities – not areas within administrative boundaries but where people call "home". Our mental health and wellbeing is directly impacted by our environment; a safe warm home and access to green spaces are vital.



David Gaffney from Charlotte Street Partners tells us about his hopes for the city in 2050 and beyond...

I consider myself one of Edinburgh's biggest fans. Born and

raised here, I've barely experienced life anywhere else, if you discount four hazy years spent at university in Stirling and very occasional foreign holidays.

I used to find it embarrassing when I'd meet well-travelled citizens of the world passing through our great city, and they'd ask me if I'd always lived here.

"Yes", I'd admit, suddenly self-conscious about how insular and parochial that made me. "But it's a brilliant place to live..." I'd add defensively, to justify my narrow horizons, "...and, well, it's home."

And what a home. The history, the architecture, the vibrancy, the quality of life, and just the sheer aesthetic beauty of the place – that exhilarating combination of hills, rooftops, and sea in one vista.

Edinburgh does so much so well that it feels churlish to criticise and demand more. But, as in sport and business, successful teams only remain at the peak of their powers through constant self-improvement. So it's refreshing that Edinburgh Council is casting a critical eye over the city as part of a concerted effort to make Auld Reekie the best it can be, not only now, or in the next 10 years, but in 2050 and beyond.

At the launch of Edinburgh's City Vision last month, we were challenged to tweet about what we thought our city should aspire to in 2050. I wrote:

I'd like a clean, ambitious, healthy, fair, and multicultural Edinburgh with the best state schools in the UK. Easy, eh?

The emerging findings were published in January 2017




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Scottish Greens claim they are gaining across the country

The Scottish Greens say they are making gains across Scotland according to an [Ipsos poll for STV](#).

The party say their local manifesto pledges to put power into people's hands, protecting local services, connect communities with better transport and broadband and build more affordable homes.

They also urge voters to choose candidates who have campaigned on local not national issues, saying they are specifically targeting the Tories.

They have 218 candidates across the country which is many more than in 2012 when they only had 80 candidates.



Here in Edinburgh there are 17 Green candidates. You can read the full list of candidates [here](#).

Meanwhile the Greens are appealing to STV who have apparently missed them out of any planned political debates ahead of the General Election.

STV have said that the debate planned for 24 May 2017 will include leaders of the four main parties. The Scottish Greens explain that they have more MSPs than the LibDems and claim that they are polling ahead of the LibDems for the council elections next week.

A spokesperson for the Scottish Greens said: "STV froze us out of their general election debate in 2015 but doing so two years later after so much has changed in Scottish politics is simply bizarre. Patrick Harvie was on the stage in their Holyrood election debate just last year. Viewers will be baffled and disappointed by our exclusion and we would encourage them to make their feelings known.

"The lack of balance given the ongoing constitutional question is extraordinary. The Green MSPs' prominent role in Scottish politics is certain to feature in the debate, so it's completely unacceptable that we won't be there to address references to us.

"We hope STV see sense and put on a fair debate, which we'd be delighted to take part in. We will announce our candidates for the general election after the results of the important council elections at the end of next week."

Grange v Heriot's Cricket – 29 April 2017

The first league game of the season at Raeburn Place.

Heriot's won the toss and opted to bat but got off to a bad start leaving them 25 runs for the loss of 3 wickets.

A good 114 partnership between Mark Watt and Peter Ross turned the score into a more respectable 139 before Peter Ross was out for 64.

A good 108 from Mark with help from other batsman behind him made the final score 247.

Gordon Goudie bowled well for 3 wickets.

In reply Grange began well making 80 with the 1st wicket with good contributions from Scott Blain and Harris Aslam.

They continued to make steady progress towards to the 248 needed to win which they did with 4 balls left.

Neil McCallum batted well with good help from Dylan Budge.



Ice hockey – Brooks on target as Britain take gold



Peter Russell guides Great Britain to
promotion in the World Championships Photo

courtesy of Karl Denham

Fife Flyers star Brendan Brooks scored as Great Britain secured promotion to the World Championship Division 1 Group A with a 4-0 victory over Japan in the SSE Arena in Belfast.

Brooks, a former Braehead Clan forward, slotted home after 24 minutes to make the scoreline 2-0 after Robert Dowd had broken the deadlock seven minutes earlier.

Matthew Myers found the net twice after 29 and 37 minutes and as the home side shutout Japan to secure their first promotion since 1993.

The victory meant Britain ended the tournament with five wins from five following earlier victories over Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania and Netherlands.

And the result is a golden triumph for Great Britain's Scottish-born coach Peter Russell.

Speedway – New Tigers star Bewley helps put skids under Edinburgh



Dan Bewley, the former Edinburgh rider who helped end his former club's five-match winning run. Picture Ian Adam

SGB Championship: Glasgow Tigers 57, Edinburgh Monarchs 34; Berwick Bandits 40, Ipswich Witches 50

Glasgow: Aaron Summers 10, Dan Bewley 13, Richard Lawson 14, Nike Lunna 0, Richie Worrall 13, Tom Perry 7, Jack Smith 0

Edinburgh: Sam Masters 4, Josh Pickering 2, Erik Riss 4, Max Clegg 0, Ricky Wells 8, Mark Riss 14, Mitchell Davey 2

Glasgow Tigers sensationally ended Edinburgh Monarchs five-match winning run despite 14 points from German racer Mark Riss.

Former Monarchs racer Dan Bewley, who moved along the M8 in the close season, came back to haunt the early Championship pace-setters with 13 points with Richard Lawson top scoring on 14 points.

The success-hungry West of Scotland combine were level at 12-12 after four races but they pulled away from their arch rivals thanks to 5-1 scorelines in the next three heats to lead 27-15.

And another 5-1 in Heat Ten effectively closed the door on the Armadale men.

Riss collected his big haul from seven races but the rest of his colleagues misfired including skipper Sam Masters who scored a disappointing four points.

Meanwhile, Berwick Bandits nightmare start to the season continued with a seventh straight defeat.

This time it was Ipswich Witches who triumphed in the Borders, winning 50-40 with former Edinburgh Monarchs racer Rory Schlein top scoring with 15 points.

Lewis Bridger was best for Berwick with 12 points while new No 1 Nick Morris, a former Glasgow rider, scored seven and fellow debutants Lee Payne collected three and Jye Ethridge two points.

Man charged with careless driving after Cowgate crash

Edinburgh Police have said that they have charged a 64-year-old man under Section 3 of the Road Traffic Act following a road traffic collision in Edinburgh's Cowgate on Saturday 29 April 2017. This is the offence of driving without due care and attention.

The collision involved a taxi and three women at around 9.20pm, just before the street becomes a pedestrian zone at 10pm.

The three who are believed to have been passengers in the taxi, are receiving treatment for what are described as 'non-life threatening injuries' at the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh. It was reported on social media that the incident took place opposite the Three Sisters pub.

A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Anyone with information about the collision is asked to contact Edinburgh Road Policing Unit quoting incident number 4400 of 29th April.

Pianist to trace Fred

Astaire's footsteps

Pianist Brian Kellock appears at the Playtime jazz sessions in the Outhouse Bar in Broughton Street Lane on Thursday 4 May 2017.

Featuring songs associated with Fred Astaire the concert will mark the first of two significant anniversaries that Kellock is honouring during May.



The Astaire-themed gig comes in the run-up to the thirtieth anniversary of the Omaha-born dancer, singer, actor, choreographer and television presenter's death in June.

Edinburgh-born Kellock has celebrated the work of Astaire before. Best known for his onscreen chemistry with Ginger Rogers in films including Flying Down to Rio, Swing Time and the Barkleys of Broadway, Astaire introduced many of the songs that are now championed as the Great American Songbook in his 1930s films.

Astaire went on to record these classics by Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, George & Ira Gershwin and others with the jazz piano virtuoso Oscar Peterson during the 1950s. Forty years on, Kellock followed suit, giving his trio's 1996 album, Something's Got to Give, the subtitle Portraits of Fred Astaire.

"It's hard not to think of Fred Astaire when you play songs like I Concentrate on You, The Way You Look Tonight and They Can't Take That Away from Me," says Kellock, who has worked with jazz luminaries including Stanley Turrentine, Sheila Jordan, Art Farmer and Herb Geller and is one half of an internationally acclaimed duo with Scottish saxophonist Tommy Smith.

“Other singers have sung these songs, of course,” he says. “And singers who are coming up will continue to sing them because they’re so perfectly written. But I often have an image of Astaire in my mind, moving across the screen with such style, when I play them and that’s a real inspiration.”

Following the Playtime gig, Kellock will turn his attention to another iconic American performer, jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald, whose centenary falls this year. Starting in Greenock on Wednesday, May 10, Kellock and the English singer Tina May, who is widely regarded as one the top jazz singers in Europe, undertake a five-date Scottish tour celebrating Fitzgerald’s revered 1970s recordings with Oscar Peterson.

“There’s no Edinburgh date on this tour with Tina, unfortunately,” says Kellock. “But there’s talk of doing some more of these Celebrating Ella & Oscar shows later in the year, so I’m hoping we might be able to bring it here then.”

A day in New York with the First Minister

At the beginning of April I was in New York for Tartan Week and had the opportunity of interviewing the First Minister, the Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP twice during the day.

It was a busy day.

It also happened to be the day when Sir Tom Hunter announced that 44th US President Barack Obama will visit Edinburgh. We did ask if she felt eclipsed by Sir Tom’s announcement but she said that it was only positive. “It will really put the

spotlight on Scotland when the President is there, and many, myself included, will be really looking forward to hearing what he has to say.”



Engagements began at 9 in the morning and by the time the First Minister left to go to her final event of the day (sadly I was not on the guest list for that!) it was almost 9pm.

Here is a snapshot of the engagements she fulfilled that day :

There has been an amount of criticism of the First Minister's trip, even though it is the second, or possibly third, such visit to the States since she became First Minister, and Scotland Week is pretty firmly entrenched in the political calendar.



We met other SNP politicians including Joanna Cherry QC MP, Tasmina Ahmed Sheikh MP, Paul Monaghan MP and Corri Wilson MP who were in New York for an interview at the New York Times as well as discussions at the UN, and who then joined the Tartan Week parade on Sixth Avenue.

The adverse remarks have included questions over matters such as :

Was she shunned by the US President (her visit was to California and New York and President Trump was in Washington during the week)

Did it do any good or not?

Was it was sheer politics to make such announcements during the week some of which were due to the work of Scottish

Enterprise and not the First Minister herself?

Whether or not any of that criticism is true or not, the fact remains that the First Minister was not on a jolly, or a holiday as some others have professed.

She appeared to us to be hard at work doing what she told us was her main job. Our job is to report the facts of what she did when we were there.

Here is our video report of the day :

[A day in New York with the First Minister](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

The First Minister told The Edinburgh Reporter : “These visits are important to build links between Scotland and in this case America. There are real investments that will come out of visits like this.

“But it is really important for leaders of any country to take the message about their own country overseas to encourage investment, to open the door for export opportunities so this is part of my core responsibilities as First Minister.”

Ms Sturgeon was accompanied throughout the week by Dr Lena Wilson the CEO of Scottish Enterprise, by some media staff from the Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise and security staff.



Scarlett Johansson was in conversation with Arianna Huffington at the Lincoln Centre just ahead of the First Minister speaking with Tina Brown when she highlighted the UK Government's rape clause.

Field hockey – Judge eyes double in Sunday's Cup Final



Sam Judge (middle, red shirt) celebrates as Edinburgh University celebrate another goal

Sam Judge led Edinburgh University to their third league title in four seasons last weekend.

Now the former Scottish international wants to land the league and Scottish Cup double on Sunday 4pm.

After that, the play-offs are in her diary, but that is in the future, and Judge is focused on the clash with Milne Craig Clydesdale Western at Glasgow's National Hockey Centre today.

Clydesdale are the only team to beat the students this term and a close game is predicted.

So, the pressure is on and Paisley-born Judge's squad won the 18-fixture league title by edging the West of Scotland club by three points.

They also outscored them, finishing the regular season with 101 goals – Kirsty Abrahams, a medical student, netting the 100th goal in her last game after six years with the club – while Western collected 87.

What's more, Edinburgh only lost 13 goals in their league campaign while the Glasgow club conceded 17.

Victory would cap a big week so far for the experienced

player/coach who was confirmed on Tuesday as a member of Scotland's coaching team.

The Paisley-born player won 199 caps for Scotland after making her debut in 1999 and has played in three Commonwealth Games tournaments.

Judge, an Edinburgh-based PE teacher is determined to secure a Grand Slam of domestic titles this term. Last season they won the league and cup but lost to Dundee-based Grove Menzieshill in the play-offs.

The evergreen, 39-year-old former Hutchesons' Grammar School pupil who also played badminton for Scotland at under-16 level, said her squad were in great spirits after Saturday's 6-1 demolition of city rivals Watsonians.

Scottish international, [Amy Brodie](#), scored a hat-trick and will be a real threat and Judge, who graduated with a sports science degree from Edinburgh University and now teaches physical education at St George's School in the Capital, said: "We won 6-1 to clinch the title and we were the better team on the day.

"We started well and were 3-1 ahead at half-time and finished the job in the second-half."

On Sunday's final, she said: "Clydesdale are a team full of internationals and they are the only team to beat us this season.

"I predict a really close game. We won the league and Scottish Cup last season and want to do that again but Sunday is a test for us.

"The girls are positive and confident and looking forward to the challenge."

Hearts Held at Tynecastle in Familiar Story



Heart of Midlothian 2 Partick Thistle 2

Ladbrokes Premiership, Saturday 29th April 2017 – Tynecastle

The so-called ‘business end’ of the season saw Hearts entertain Partick Thistle in a top six clash in the Ladbrokes Premiership on Saturday afternoon. Both sides still harbour hopes of clinching fourth place in the league which would mean participation in the qualifying stages of next season’s Europa League – in little over eight weeks from now. But by the end of the afternoon a 2-2 draw added to current fourth place incumbents St Johnstone’s surprise 2-0 victory at Aberdeen meant hopes of finishing in fourth place diminished somewhat.

It was a strangely subdued afternoon at Tynecastle. We didn’t have the dulcet tones of Scotland’s best stadium announcer Scott Wilson who was elsewhere and the Maroon Army were unusually quiet for most of the ninety minutes. Granted, Hearts performance, in keeping with recent weeks, didn’t inspire any outpouring of excitement but the atmosphere for which Tynecastle is renowned was distinctly lacking on Saturday afternoon.

Hearts Head Coach Ian Cathro, under fire from many Hearts supporters, made one change from the equally uninspiring display at Kilmarnock a fortnight ago. It was a surprising one – skipper Perry Kitchen dropped to the substitute’s bench as Choulay took his place. Don Cowie was captain for the day and Perry Kitchen, who has flitted in and out of the team in

recent weeks, must wonder what he has to do to remain in the team.

The aforementioned game against Kilmarnock was a deadly dull affair and the first half against Partick Thistle bore (if you'll pardon the pun) similar hallmarks.

Hearts were again guilty of passing the ball to death when more incisive movement up front would have been more productive. It took ten minutes before Hearts even had an attempt on goal when a cross from Andraz Struna fell to Arnaud Djoum but the Cameroon internationalist's shot on goal from just outside the penalty box was too high.

Jamie Walker then had an effort on goal but this was way too wide before fine play from Don Cowie – again an impressive force in midfield – found Isma Goncalves but the striker couldn't control the ball and Thistle keeper Cerny collected. Sadly, this was to be a feature of Goncalves' afternoon.

At this stage, Hearts keeper Jack Hamilton could have sat next to me in the Gorgie Stand although a free-kick from Booth in the 26th minute was met by Keown but the son of former Arsenal star Martin found his cross into the Hearts penalty box spurned by his colleagues.

Hearts almost went in front when fine play from Choulay set up Goncalves whose attempt on goal was cleared only as far as Struna whose shot hit the crossbar.

Jamie Walker then went close with a deflected shot which went agonisingly wide.

Half-time Hearts 0 Partick Thistle 0

Hearts made a positive start to the second half when a fine pass from Walker sent Goncalves through down the left wing but after thrusting his way into the Thistle penalty box, the former St Mirren man blasted his effort into the side netting.

It was a missed opportunity the hosts rued immediately as Thistle went ahead in the 50th minute. The impressive Lawless delivered a fine cross towards Doolan who had the freedom of Gorgie Road to head past Jack Hamilton. Howls of frustration from the home support ensued.

This turned into howls of anger seconds later when a superb cross from Don Cowie was met by Isma Goncalves. With a free header from eight yards, the big striker headed over the crossbar, incurring the wrath of the home support.

Hearts at last upped the ante in an effort to get back into the game. Thistle had keeper Cerny to thank for keeping them in front as he pulled off a fine save from Arnaud Djoum.

However, Thistle should have doubled their lead when Erskine was straight through on Jack Hamilton but the Hearts keeper managed to deflect the Thistle player's effort away from goal. It was a huge let-off for Ian Cathro's side.

With 20 minutes left Hearts equalised in controversial circumstances. Don Cowie's shot on goal hit the hand of Thistle's Devine inside the penalty box. Penalty decreed referee Andrew Dallas. If the Thistle players were unhappy with that decision they were downright furious when Mr Dallas promptly booked Devine for the second time that afternoon and therefore ordered him off. It was a harsh decision as it was difficult to see how it could have been judged as deliberate hand ball.

Isma Goncalves didn't worry, however, and he fired home the penalty kick to draw parity.

My grandson Jack opined it would be typical of Hearts to then go behind to the ten men. Moments later, I was asking Jack for tonight's national lottery numbers as more fine play from Lawless saw the Thistle man skip past the Hearts defence and fire the ball beyond Hamilton to put the visitors back in

front.

The jeers from the home support suddenly became louder but Hearts tried manfully for another equaliser. Thistle keeper Cerny saved well from Djoum and Liam Smith as Hearts went all out for another equaliser.

They got it with just two minutes left. Substitute Sam Nicholson saw his cross blocked on the goal line but the unlikely figure of Andraz Struna fired home to bring the scores level again at 2-2.

In stoppage time, Hearts should have taken all three points when Goncalves was through on goal. Sadly, the out-of-sorts striker fired a tame effort straight at keeper Cerny.

The match ended seconds later and the boos from the home support told its own story.

Afterwards, Hearts Head Coach Ian Cathro painted a familiar picture.

“We feel disappointment, frustration, maybe a tiny bit of shock at not winning that match,” he told the official Hearts website. “We feel we did more than enough to win the match, with the chances created, but we make it difficult for ourselves. We shouldn’t need to score 3 goals to win a match here.

“We found ourselves in a position where we had to, because of defensive errors, but that’s a game where we win more often than not. Our attacking was much better today, but we were missing more goals.

“Isma would get a hat-trick 9 times out of 10 in a game like this, and he knows that. This is a game we should have won, and as the main striker he obviously feels it more than any of us.”

Hearts: Hamilton, Smith, Buaben, Nowak, Struna, Tziolis

(Johnsen, 79'), Djoum, Choulay (Nicholson, 79'), Cowie, Isma, Walker.

Partick Thistle: Cerny, Booth, Doolan, Erskine (Azeez, 79'), Lawless, Barton, Elliott, Devine, Keown, Edwards, McCarthy.

Referee: Andrew Dallas

Att: 15,930

Top Man: Not for the first time, it had to be Don Cowie.

Hibs last away game ends with a comprehensive victory over Ayr United.



Hibs last away game of the season ended with a comprehensive 4-0 victory over relegation candidates Ayr United at Somerset Park this afternoon.

After making ten changes in midweek, Neil Lennon made eight changes today, bringing back many of his first team regulars.

Only Ross Laidlaw, Jordon Forster and Chris Humphrey survived the 'cull'

Hibs started brightly and Jason Cummings almost opened the scoring in the 3rd minute but after rounding the keeper, his shot rebounded off the post.

The league's top scorer wasn't to be denied for long then in the 28th minute John McGinn sent a dinked cross which Cummings headed into the net.

In the second half, McGinn, Boyle and Humphrey all went close with long range efforts before Holt was unlucky not to connect with a cut back inside the area.

Hibs added a third in the 66th minute when Cummings set up substitute James Keatings who slid the ball through the legs of Fleming then the pair combined again moments later when Keatings found Cummings with a superb through ball and the youngster scored his second of the day.

Hibs face St Mirren at Easter Road next Saturday where they will be presented with the Championship trophy.

Ayr United: Fleming, Devlin, Balatoni, Meggatt, Boyle, Forrest (Gilmour 77), Docherty, Rose (McGuffie 45), Cairney (El Alagui 69) Harkins, Moore

Substitutes not used : Murphy, McDaid, Hart

Hibernian: Laidlaw, Gray, McGregor, Forster, Stevenson, Humphrey (Keatings, 60'), McGinn (Shinnie, 74'), Fyvie, Boyle (Murray, 74'), Cummings, Holt.

Substitutes not used: P Martin, Ambrose, S Martin, Graham.

Referee Stephen Finnie

Attendance 2,152

Where are they now? Hibs' 2007 CIS / League Cup winning team



March 18th marks the 10th anniversary of Hibernian's CIS League Cup final victory over Kilmarnock at Hampden Park and the Edinburgh Reporter finds out what happened to the players who took part in that epic game and speaks to fans' favourite David Murphy about his memories of that glorious day.

Andy McNeil was released by Hibs and subsequently played for Montrose, Raith Rovers, Livingston, Waibob United, Hawkes Bay Island, Airdrie, Alloa and Morton. Earlier this year he became a reserve goalkeeping coach with Chinese Super League side Guangzhou R&F.

Steven Whittaker joined Rangers for a reported fee of £2m. At Ibrox he won three League titles, two Scottish Cups and two League Cups before moving to Norwich City when Rangers went into administration. At Carrow Road he helped Norwich to promotion via the play-offs.

David Murphy joined Birmingham City for a reported fee of £1m and won a League Cup winners medal as an unused substitute in City's victory over Arsenal. He was forced to retire from the game due to injuries.

Chris Hogg was freed by Hibs and joined Inverness Caledonian Thistle where he spent three years before joining Needham Market. He is currently an U18 Coach with Ipswich Town.

Rob Jones moved to Scunthorpe for an undisclosed record fee. He later moved to Sheffield Wednesday, Doncaster and Hartlepool where he is currently a first team player/coach.

Guillaume 'Boozy' Beuzelin left Hibs when his contract ended and joined Coventry City before returning to Scotland with Hamilton Academicals then Greece with Olympiakos Nicosia. After retiring he became a coach at Stirling University, Hibernian Under 14s and is currently a first team coach under Martin Canning at New Douglas Park.

Lewis Stevenson is the only member of the Cup winning team to still be at Easter Road. He has played over 300 games for the club and last year was awarded a testimonial. The likeable Fifer made history by becoming the only Hibs' player to have won two national cups whilst at the club.

Scott Brown moved to Celtic for a reported £4m and is now the club captain. He has won an impressive six League titles, two Scottish Cups and two League Cups with the Hoops. Until recently Scott captained his country and to date he has 51 caps.

Ivan Sproule is best remembered for his second half hat-trick against Rangers at Ibrox. The speedy winger moved to Bristol City for £500,000 then after a couple of loan spells returned to Easter Road under Colin Calderwood. He joined Ross County before returning to Northern Ireland with Linfield. Ivan official retired last summer. He won 11 caps including one in the famous 1-0 win over England.

Steven Fletcher joined Burnley for £3m then moved to Wolverhampton Wanderers for £6.5m and later Sunderland for £12m. After a spell on loan in France he joined Sheffield Wednesday where he currently plays. He won 30 caps for Scotland and became the first player to score a hat-trick since Colin Stein in 1969.

Abdessalam 'Benji' Benjelloun left Hibs for a loan spell with Charleroi before signing for Ismaily SC. He has subsequently played for Moroccan sides Raja Casablanca, Wydad de Fez, FUS Rabat and FAR Rabat. He retired from the game two years ago

and his current whereabouts are unknown.

Manager John Collins resigned after a dispute with the board then had a brief spell as manager of Charleroi in 2009. He was appointed director of football at Livingston in February 2012, but resigned a year later. He then assisted Ronny Deila at Celtic for two years, winning two League titles.

David Murphy recalled his time at Easter Road fondly saying: “I loved my time at Hibs. When I moved north to Scotland I was a 20-year-old kid, but that move turned me into a man. The team was full of youngsters such as Scott Brown, Steven Whittaker, Kevin Thomson, Steven Fletcher, Garry O’Connor and Derek Riordan and it really was a very special time in my life.

“There was a great team spirit and whenever we bump into each other it’s as if we have never been apart. I still see Rob Jones regularly as he lives close by.

“The League Cup Final was special for me as it was my first trophy. The celebrations at full time were fantastic. I remember standing on the pitch with Benji, waiting to be interviewed for television when they played ‘Sunshine on Leith’ and everyone sang along. It was a real ‘tingler’ and I still get goose bumps thinking about it.

“It’s frightening to think that ‘youngster’ Lewis Stevenson has now qualified for a testimonial but he deserves it as he is Hibs through and through and has been a great servant to the club.”

Ice hockey – Shields becomes record breaker as Britain thump Netherlands



Colin Shields celebrates becoming Britain's all-time record scorer during the big win over The Netherlands in Belfast. Picture Dean Woolley

Glasgow-born Colin Shields became Great Britain's all-time leading goalscorer as a 14-0 victory over Netherlands ensured a winner-takes-all showdown with Japan on Saturday 7.30pm in the World Championship, Division 1, Group B in Belfast.

Shields, who plays for Belfast Giants, scored a hat-trick to move onto 41 international goals and one ahead of previous record-holder, Edinburgh-born Tony Hand.

Sam Duggan scored his first two international goals and netminder, Dundee-born Stephen Murphy, a former Edinburgh Capitals, Fife Flyers and Dundee Stars player, posted an 11-shot shutout.

The hosts and Japan are level on 12 points at the top of the table and victory would secure the gold medal and promotion to Division 1, Group A next year.

Field hockey – Nelson says

Scottish Cup is in the balance



Cammy Fraser (white shirt) and Lee Morton of Bromac Kelburne, two key players in Saturday's Scottish Cup Final. Picture Nigel Duncan Media

Chris Nelson admitted that Bromac Kelburne have not been on top form recently and the experienced player revealed the squad have been working hard on performances.

They delivered when it matter under pressure last weekend, edging Edinburgh University 2-0 to clinch their 13th straight Division One title.

Today Saturday the Paisley-based team square-up to Grange in the Scottish Cup Final at Glasgow's National Hockey Centre (push-off 4pm).

It was Grange's 3-2 home defeat to Western Wildcats last Saturday, collapsing after being 2-0 ahead, which let Kelburne in by the back door.

Scottish international Nelson and his squad eye the domestic Grand Slam but he stressed it was one game at a time.

And he added: "A loss had been coming for us as we have not been playing well and the defeat to Uddingston showed us that we are not as good as we think we are.

"It also underlined that we are not going to walk on the pitch and win so losing to Uddingston was good and we thought the (Division One) title had gone.

"Last Saturday the game against Edinburgh University, we thought, was going to be about preparing for the Cup Final

with Grange and the play-offs.

“I didn’t see Grange losing last Saturday and I was surprised at that but we’ve had good training in recent weeks.

“Our performances have picked up and we kept the pressure on Grange.

“Having a competitive league with two or three teams going for it helps keep interest and it keeps teams focused.

“One slip-up, as you saw from Grange last weekend, and you have lost it.”

The 32-year-old former Commonwealth Games player said last Saturday against Edinburgh was the first cup final of three.

He added: “We won the first to retain the title now we have the Scottish Cup on Saturday and the play-offs.

“Grange will be hurting (after last Saturday) and they have bonded well and are playing some really good team hockey. I think it will be 50-50 as to who wins the cup.”

On Sunday, Edinburgh University women face Milne Craig Clydesdale Western (push-off 4pm) at the same venue in the women’s final.

Rugby – Edinburgh v Dragons, Guinness PR012

Edinburgh leave it late for the win



Edinburgh indeed left it late to secure their first win in 10 matches with an 83rd minute try to snatch the points at Myreside on Friday night from, what had been up until late on, a – relatively – superior Dragons side.

In a largely forgettable match, Edinburgh fairly dominated the opening exchanges taking an early lead with an eighth minute, Jason Tovey penalty for 3-0, but after the first 15 minutes or so, the match degenerated into a mistake ridden encounter, with neither side covering themselves with much in the way of glory.

Glory did, briefly, shine on the visitors, however, as a well worked side-to-side move saw Dragons' wing, Pat Howard, who ghosted through a gap down the left to score the first try, which was then converted by their 10, Angus O'Brien.

With a couple of minutes to go I the half, O'Brien was able to stretch the Dragons' lead to 10-3 with a penalty from just inside Edinburgh's half for 10-3.

The second half continued where the first had left off, with both sides making slight advantages, but failing to capitalise through a variety of errors, until, in a repeat move of their first try, the Dragons put full back, Carl Meyer, down the touch line for a try. O'Brien converted again and the score was 17-3 for the visitors.



Then, with 64 minutes on the clock, Edinburgh scored their first try.... Only, they hadn't. Despite sub, Blair Kinghorn crossing the line, a TMO consultation lead to Allan Dell being yellow carded for an illegal clear-out at a ruck.

With just over 10 minutes to go, and the home fans seemingly resigned to another defeat, O'Brien hammered home a potential nail by scoring a 70th minute penalty for 20-3.

With the odd fan leaving the ground, anticipating another failed attempt at a win, the Edinburgh side must have decided that they had built up enough of a false sense of security for the visitors and, so, turned up the wick. And what a wick it turned out to be.

A prolonged assault on the Dragons' line lead to Tovey offloading the Kinghorn who reached over the line out of a last-ditch tackle for a – successful – try, converted by Tovey for 20-10.



The former Dragons stand-off, then proceeded to take his former side apart with a series of penetrating runs which, eventually, bore fruit with another defence-splitting pass to put Damien Hoyland through for their second try with less than two minutes on the clock. Tovey then converted for 20-17.

Edinburgh were now playing with their tails up and as the clock ticked over in to extra time, they were in the Dragons' faces again. A string of penalties were quickly taken and the final move saw captain, Grant Gilchrist reached out from a pile of bodies to touch the line with the ball. The TMO suggested that he had a look, but all was good and, with another Tovey conversion, Edinburgh had taken the match at 24-20 in the 83rd minute for their first win in any competition since the end of January.

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

Fishing – megastore reveal Edinburgh open weekend dates



A section of the well-fished Tweed near Peebles on a stunning spring day. Picture by Nigel Duncan Media

Edinburgh Angling Centre have confirmed the dates for the first open weekend at their Granton store.

They promise tackle demonstrations, fishing tuition, new product launches, competitions, deals and special offers.

Their open weekend in Glasgow earlier this season drew thousands of fishermen to what is Scotland's biggest free angling event.

So, the dates for your diary at Granton Retail Park are July 1 and 2 from 8am to 5pm.

Council Elections 2017 – Tim Pogson Liberton/Gilmerton

Tim Pogson Scottish Labour Party



Tim told us about himself: “Originally from Yorkshire, I have

lived in Edinburgh since 1995. I have spent virtually my entire career working in the field of social housing.

“I currently work for a charitable organisation that supports council housing services and housing associations throughout Scotland. My specialist area is homelessness policy and practice.

“I live in the Southside and am currently chair of Southside Community Council. My early family experiences were blighted by disability. I have always wanted to make a positive contribution to my community and hopefully help others in need. I believe that I have the experience and knowledge necessary to make an excellent contribution to managing public services on behalf of the people of Liberton/Gilmerton ward.

“The Liberton/Gilmerton area is a fantastic place for families to raise their children, minutes from the city centre, filled with its own beautiful green spaces and with the greenbelt right on its doorstep, but it is a community with challenges, and it is these challenges that I would seek to address as a ward councillor.

1. Anti social behaviour continues to be a major headache in pockets of the ward, and with increasingly severe cuts to community policing resources, challenging these problems isn't going to become any easier.
2. Edinburgh is a city in dire need of more housing. We acknowledge that a booming, growing, economically successful city is going to need more houses, but we also need to provide everything that goes along with new communities, more schools, GP surgeries and other community resources. Housing alone does not make a community.
3. Finally, we are all aware of the spending cuts that threaten our precious public services, education, health, social care, cleansing. I will fight to ensure that Liberton/Gilmerton receives the services it needs

and that it deserves.”

Tim spoke to us outside Inch House in the ward. He explained why he thought he would be a good councillor. “A few reasons. When I was growing up, I grew up in a housing association flat, our home, my childhood home, because my father had a disability and wasn’t able to earn tot his full potential. So I think there was some good life experience there. My whole career has been spent in housing, in terms of affordable housing, so I’ve got a lot of experience there in terms of helping with council services and having an understanding of the benefits of housing. And then finally where I stay in the Southside I’m heavily involved with community organisations there, with the community council. And we’ve worked closely with the councillors looking at issues around bins, planning and what have you.

“I think my priority would probably be around housing pressures within Liberton/Gilmerton. Everybody’s aware that Edinburgh is a growing city. We need more housing, more schools. We need investment in new schools where new families are moving into the area, GPs’ surgeries, public transport.

“We need to make sure that council services are well run and well delivered.”

[Tim Pogson](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

The 2017 candidates for the four member ward are as follows:

CAMERON, Lezley Marion (Scottish Labour Party)

HOWIE, Derek (Scottish National Party (SNP))

KNOX, John Christopher (Scottish Liberal Democrats)

MACINNES, Lesley (Scottish National Party (SNP))

NICHOL, John (Scottish Green Party)

POGSON, Tim (Scottish Labour Party)

SMITH, Stephanie (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)

#GE2017 – Liberal Democrats pick their Edinburgh West candidate

Even before the votes are cast in the local council elections it is clear that the political heat over the General Election is being turned up with the Edinburgh West seat a particular target.

The seat was won by the SNP in the 2015 election with a majority of 3210 votes, but the Liberal Democrats' Mike Crockart had held it previously.

✖ Now Christine Jardine, who was thwarted in her bid to take the Gordon seat in 2015, losing it to Alex Salmond, has announced that she will stand in Edinburgh West in the General Election on 8 June 2017.

✖

Christine Jardine has been a journalist, broadcaster and university teacher. She has also been involved with the Liberal Democrats since 2009 and was Scotland Media Adviser in Downing Street during the coalition.

Christine Jardine said: "Edinburgh West deserves a MP that will put the local area first.

"I will aim to provide a first class service for the

constituency just like Alex Cole-Hamilton has done at the Scottish Parliament. The SNP have failed the people of this constituency and now they have a chance to elect someone who will stand up for their interests.

“Edinburgh is a city that voted both strongly against independence and for the European Union. The people of Edinburgh West deserve an MP that reflects those views and if elected I will passionately argue to keep Scotland at the heart of the UK and the UK at the heart of Europe.

“Every vote for me is a vote against independence and a vote for a better future.”

Review – Steak on Stones sizzles!



Stephanie our superb waitress delivered the stone heated to 350 degrees to the table along with thin slivers of succulent, raw steak.

A bowl of salt accompanied the delivery and we were advised to sprinkle it on the sizzling stone to aid cooking.

Yes, you do it yourself. A good thing in our case as Pam likes medium-rare and I adore rare steak.

So, there is no blaming the chef if your meat – I enjoyed sirloin and Pam fillet – is not done to your liking.

It's a concept which may be alien to many who enjoy dining out and having a night off cooking.

This is a different experience. The cooking element provoked much debate but the end product, providing you got it right, was superb.

There were seven sides to pick from. I debated over garlic field mushrooms but eventually went for a simple baby leaf and tomato salad. It arrived with a delicate dressing. The juicy tomatoes and fresh leaf worked well but I felt a shaving of red onion would have delivered an extra crunch and flavour to the dish.

Also ordered were beef dripping chips and a tasty mound arrived. Pam ordered sweet potato fries plus creamed peas, leeks and bacon side. The peas were packed with flavour.

To start, Pam's haggis, black pudding and sage fritters with mustard mayo were a delight.

Each flavour stood out and it was no surprise to learn that this was amongst the most popular starters on the menu.

However, my smoked paprika baby squid was a real disappointment. The paprika did not stand out and the squid was rubbery. Thankfully, the lime dip was there to lift the dish.

We were sorely tempted by the chocolate fondue to share. It comes with fresh fruit, berries, marshmallows, popcorn and shortbread, but no.

Steak on Stones was busy. The man seated next to us pops in every month when he is on business from France.

Other clients when we visited were tourists and people going to the theatre. It is opposite the busy Playhouse.

Students apparently love it as their steak sizzler (available Sunday to Thursday) is £12 for a 150g rump steak, beef dripping chips, sauce and mini stacked pancakes.

The restaurant is housed in what must have been an elegant

dwelling at one time.

However, the entrance is off-putting. You walk down a corridor with a beer and skittles alley downstairs and a dark restaurant in front of you.

Steak on Stones is to your left. It is confusing but, overall, we enjoyed the music and the experience.

Steak on Stones

14 Picardy Place, Edinburgh EH1 3JT

T: 0131 556 1289

www.steakedinburgh.com

Speedway – Monarchs come from behind to earn four-point KO Cup lead



Richard Lawson was an inspired guest for Sheffield Tigers in their Knockout Cup quarter-final first-leg at Armadale. Picture Ian Adam

Knockout Cup quarter-final: Edinburgh Monarchs 47, Sheffield Tigers 43

Edinburgh: Sam Masters 11, Josh Pickering 5, Erik Riss 8, Max Clegg 2, Ricky Wells 10, Mark Riss 9, Mitchell Davey 2

Sheffield: Richard Lawson (guest) 11, Josh Bates 8, Todd Kurtz 4, rider replacement for Lasse Bjerre, Kyle Howarth 14, Rob Branford 4, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 2

Kyle Howarth came back to haunt his former paymasters with 14 superb points as Sheffield Tigers made in-form Edinburgh Monarchs fight all the way in this Knockout Cup quarter-final first-leg tie at Armadale.

Monarchs now travel south for the second-leg at a date to be arranged with a four-point advantage after a come-from-behind 47-43 win.

Sam Masters, Monarchs' skipper, said: "It would have been nice to have a bigger lead but the guys pulled this round."

Masters won the first heat in the fastest time at Armadale this season – 55.6sec – but it was downhill after that.

The home side, who have won their first five Championship matches, skidded to a ten-point deficit after six races, Tigers winning four in a row.

Josh Pickering and Mark Riss stopped the slide with a 5-1 win in Heat Eight to bring the score back to 27-21.

And an outstanding ride from young Aussie Josh Pickering who came from the back to collect a second place behind skipper Masters cut the deficit to 31-29 after Heat 10.

Two heats later the home side hit the front for the first time with the scoreline 37-35 thanks to a superb ride from German ace Erik Riss and his older brother Mark who slipped between two Sheffield riders to grab second place.

The sides were level after the next race as the outstanding Howarth, a former Monarchs racer, won the heat with guest Richard Lawson (Glasgow Tigers) in third place.

Mark Riss won Heat 14 with young Max Clegg in second spot for a 5-1 and narrow lead with a scoreline of 44-40 and guest Lawson won the final race to deny the home side.

VisitScotland makes Midlothian promotional film



Clubbiedean Reservoir in the Pentland Hills.

Pic by Nigel Duncan Media

A new online film, aimed at promoting Midlothian to visitors across the globe, has been launched by the national tourism organisation in partnership with Midlothian Council and Midlothian Tourism Forum.

Produced by VisitScotland, in collaboration with the region's council and tourism forum, the film showcases the number of things to see and do across the region.

Using the tagline 'something... different, mysterious, awesome,...' – the film features the wealth of visitor experiences on offer in Midlothian such as the Edinburgh Butterfly & Insect World, the Secret Herb Garden and Rosslyn Chapel.

The 68-second film also encourages visitors to explore 'something dark' during a visit to the National Mining Museum Scotland in Newtongrange as well as trying 'something crafty' with a brewery tour and demonstration at Stewart Brewing in Loanhead.

Manuela Calchini, VisitScotland Regional Director, said: "This fantastic new video showcases the very best of Midlothian, shining a spotlight on the region's icons, as well as its hidden gems.

"The film is an additional asset for VisitScotland and our

partners to promote Midlothian and its many attractions to visitors at home and further afield, providing a shop window for the whole region.

“I’m sure the video will inspire more visitors to ‘experience something different’ in Midlothian this summer and beyond. From breathtaking scenery to tasty food and drink, rich history to unforgettable attractions – Midlothian really does have ‘something’ for everyone.”

Andrew McDonald, Chair of the Midlothian Tourism Forum, said: “This video gives a snapshot of what Midlothian has to offer and highlights the many activities and experiences available to all that come to our beautiful region.

“Located on Edinburgh’s doorstep, Midlothian may well be easy to get to for visitors and residents alike – what may prove more difficult is to leave without wishing to explore more.”

Attractions featured in the video:

- National Mining Museum Scotland
- Stewart Brewing
- Edinburgh Butterfly & Insect World
- Rosslyn Chapel
- Secret Herb Garden
- Dalhousie Castle Falconry
- Dalkeith Country Park
- Snowsports Centre
- Pentland Hills Regional Park
- Roslin Glen
- Ryze Trampoline
- The Paper Mill

To find out more about Midlothian, visit www.visitmidlothian.org.uk

Staff buzzing over new restaurant in Bruntsfield

A new eatery opens in Bruntsfield this Monday, 1 May 2017.

Claiming it will offer food 'bursting with flavour' Honeycomb & Co launches a menu inspired by flavours from around the world and the best seasonal produce.

It is a new venture from the team behind many of the city's eating spots and will open all day long from breakfast at 7.30am till 7pm in the evening. They also offer take-out from the counter so that you can liven up your lunchtimes at home.

Weekend brunch will feature shakshuka, topped with crispy black pudding and hazelnut dukka.

Lunch specials to tempt you include beef ramen, made with beef slow-cooked and served with kimchee and soft boiled egg.

Or how about a bowl of spring minestrone with wild garlic pesto?

Vegetarian and gluten-free choices are available along with coffee and cakes.

Tempting choices might include Persian love cake doughnuts, cinnamon (and black cardamom) buns with tahini or the venue's signature honey cakes. The restaurant will adopt their own bee hives to provide them with honey and pollen to use in their cakes and granola bowls.

They say : "Our eatery is brimming with loads of good things to try, and what sets us apart is the taste, style and

flavour combinations. Every plate has been lovingly created by us to bring you a taste experience."

[Honeycomb & Co](#) 1 Merchiston Place Edinburgh EH10 4NP t 0131 228 4641



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Lewis Stevenson is 'fresh and ready to go' after midweek break



Hibs' long serving defender Lewis Stevenson says he is fresh and ready to go if selected against Ayr United this afternoon.

Stevenson was one of ten changes made by Neil Lennon for the midweek game against Raith Rovers after the tough Scottish Cup semi-final defeat to Aberdeen and he is determined to end the season on a high.

He also praised the fringe players and youngsters who took over on Wednesday night and recorded a 3-2 victory.

He told Hibernian TV: "I feel fresh and ready to go. I was there on Wednesday night watching and the boys who played did brilliant. We have a strong squad and it showed that any of these players are ready to come in and the team won't be weakened at all.

"Sometimes you need a break, physically and mentally. Big games like semi-finals can take it out of you but we still have about of work to do as we want to get as many points as possible and we I am looking forward to the game against Ayr on Saturday.

“It will be a tough test. They beat us at home but we played well the last time we were down there and we want to keep that going.

“They are fighting for their lives and we will treat them with a lot of respect but we want to have a good points total at the end of the season as we have had too many draws this season.”

Hearts to ‘Reinstate’ Tynecastle Park



Hearts have announced that when the new main stand opens in September, the club will reinstate ‘Tynecastle Park’ as the official name of the new-look ground.

When Tynecastle was redeveloped in the mid-1990s, it was renamed ‘Tynecastle Stadium’, a move which received a mixed reception from fans, particularly the older generation of Hearts supporters.

Now Hearts say they will honour the club’s long and storied heritage by reverting to ‘Tynecastle Park’ in September.

Meanwhile, Hearts entertain Partick Thistle at Tynecastle – whichever version you prefer – in the Ladbrokes Premiership on Saturday. Kick-off is at 3.00pm.

Review: The Knights of Music With Phillip Schofield ***



Friday evening at the Edinburgh Playhouse saw a concert celebrating legendary 'knights' of the entertainment industry who have transformed the face of music, film and theatre in recent decades. The Knights of Music included songs from Sir Elton John, Lord Andrew Lloyd-Webber, Sir Cliff Richard, Dame Shirley Bassey, Sir Paul McCartney and The Beatles, Sir Cameron Mackintosh, Sir Tim Rice, Sir Mick Jagger, Sir Bob Geldof, Bono, and the newly knighted Sir Rod Stewart.

A vibrant cast of West End performers including Over the Rainbow star Sophie Evans, High School Musical winner Liam Doyle, Andy Coxon (The Carole King Musical and Sister Act amongst others) and Simon Schofield (The Sound of Music and Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat amongst others) joined a live band to perform some memorable musical numbers such as , 'Rocket Man' (Elton John) 'Twist and Shout', 'Hey Jude' (The Beatles)' I Dreamed a Dream' (Les Miserables) 'Do you want to dance' (Cliff Richard) 'It's Not Unusual' (Tom Jones) 'Close Every Door' (Joseph) 'Satisfaction' (Mick Jagger) and 'Maggie May' (Rod Stewart)

But it was another Schofield – television and stage star Phillip – who took centre stage as the host and, having performed in Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat at the Playhouse back in 1994, the host of ITV's This Morning couldn't resist reprising his role for his adoring audience.

It was a solid two hours of a medley of old songs and most of the audience lapped it up, despite what appeared to be a small technical problem with one of the microphones in the first half of the show. I found it enjoyable enough but my preference is to see original songs performed by the original performers. Watching the Boomtown Rats' iconic 'I Don't Like Mondays' being performed by three men and three

women in dance costumes cut a somewhat surreal image for this ageing reporter...

That said, Schofield (both of them) and the cast of singers and performers received a standing ovation at the end of the show. The Knights of Music is enjoying the briefest of runs with only four shows – Nottingham, Newcastle and London being the only other venues – so Edinburgh was privileged to see the show.

[Knights of Music](#) – hosted by Philip Schofield.

Edinburgh Reporter rating ***

Police seek help to trace silver Mitsubishi Pajero following Musselburgh break-in



Police are appealing for witnesses following a break-in to a shop in Musselburgh which occurred around 1am on Wednesday 27th April at RS McColls in Delta Drive.

Entry was forced to the property and a quantity of cigarettes and alcohol were taken.

Officers are also looking to trace a Silver Mitsubishi Pajero

with registration number N919 CVC, which was stolen a short time earlier from outside an address in Goose Green Crescent and believed to have been used during this incident.

The vehicle was last seen heading in the direction of the Newcraighall area through a field near to the Granada Services.

Detective Constable William Dickson from Dalkeith CID said: "We are continuing to conduct enquiries into this break-in and are appealing for the public's help as part of this.

"Officers are now appealing for anyone who was in the area around this time or seen anyone acting in a suspicious manner or saw the Mitsubishi Shogun, to please get in touch."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Nearly 70 people received the police 'chat on the mat'



Nearly 70 people in Edinburgh have received the chat on the mat as part of Operation Close Pass.

Operation Close Pass sees drivers who pass an unmarked police cyclist too closely pulled over and given advice using a specially designed mat which shows how much space a person on a bicycle needs when overtaking them.

The operation began on Monday 17th April and was officially launched this week (Monday 24th April). Sixty-eight motorists

have been spoken to after passing the plain clothed officer on a bike too closely, and PC Dominic Doyle who is running the operation said the message has been well received.

“We have carried out the operation in different parts of the city and whilst we have stopped roughly the same number of drivers in each location, the advice was definitely taken on board by those people and we have noticed the public reacting the same way. This week I’ve seen drivers giving cyclists far more room when overtaking and colleagues are reporting the same.

“We’ve also had a lot of positive feedback with different areas of Edinburgh being suggested where we could take the mat next. We will certainly consider these, as we want to address both areas of concern and places where we have in the past seen cyclists injured in collisions.

“We have used different cyclists wearing different clothes and on different bikes, so drivers can’t be complacent. The message is simple – you should give cyclists as much room as you would a car when passing, for the safety of everyone.”

A number of other road traffic matters and offences were also dealt with by officers on Operation Close Pass, including issuing fixed penalty notices for speeding, no MOT, no driving licence, no insurance and careless driving. One driver with a dangerous load was stopped and an ASBO was issued for anti-social vehicle use.

Transport Minister Humza Yousaf said: “This Government is investing over £1 billion per year in public and sustainable transport to encourage people onto public and active travel modes. It is our long term aspiration to increase the uptake of walking and cycling for shorter everyday journeys.

“I welcome this important road policing project and fully support all road safety interventions that make choosing active travel a realistic and safe choice. All road users need

to be aware of the things they can do to make everyone safe as part of our daily journeys. A mid-term review of Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020 identified cyclists and pedestrians as one of three key priorities for further action, setting a specific outcome which seeks to reduce the number of cyclist casualties. The Close Pass project is one of a range of measures that will assist towards achieving that outcome."

The pilot will continue in Edinburgh until the end of May.

Speedway – Courtney says change needed at Berwick



Scott Courtney hopes home fans see a welcome win when Ipswich Witches call on Saturday.

Picture by Colin Poole

Berwick's new line-up will go to the tapes for the first time on Saturday.

Australian World Cup rider Nick Morris, the club's new No 1, his countryman, Jye Etheridge, who finished the last season strongly for Redcar Bears, and 30-year-old former motocross star Lee Payne will all ride against Ipswich Witches.

They were all expected to make their debuts at Ipswich on Thursday but the weather put paid to that.

Bandits co-promoter Scott Courtney said that things had to change.

The fans, he said, deserve some reward for their loyalty and Courtney added that it was not too late to make a big

difference this season.

And he added: "We will be doing everything we can to claim league points on Saturday."

Tapes go up at 7pm