

Major collection of Russell Flint paintings to be auctioned in Edinburgh



Major Private Collection of Scottish Born Russell Flint Paintings to be Auctioned

Lyon & Turnbull will sell a major private collection of paintings by Edinburgh born artist Sir William Russell Flint at auction of British & European Paintings on 30th April 2014 at 33 Broughton Place, EH1 3RR.

The collection is worth £200,000 with estimates ranging between £5,000 and £50,000.

By his death in 1969 Sir William Russell Flint was a world famous artist: a long term Royal Academician and President of the Royal Society of Painters in Watercolour. A familiar face in London society where virtually the entirety of his career was conducted. Nick Curnow Paintings Specialist and Managing Director of Lyon & Turnbull said "His appreciators are often unaware that he was a born and bred Scotsman. Growing up in Portobello on the coast to the east of Edinburgh, he learnt his extraordinary skill as a watercolourist at his father's knee: a ticket maker and illuminator of text, who practised art in his spare moments."

Paintings include 'The Dance of 1000 Flounces' estimate £30,000-£50,000, is the celebrity of the collection, previously known as 'Ladies of Almeria'. It is one of the most famous painting by Flint and it is also one of the most reproduced. The artist signed a limited edition reproduction

that has sold for as much as a thousand pounds. Painted on one of Flint's visit to Spain, it represents the artist at his best showing his extraordinary skills as a watercolour artist and his ability to capture the very spirit of the country through the sensuous poses of the female dancers.

✖ 'Cecilia', estimate £20,000-30,000 and 'Dalitha' also £20,000-30,000, show his fascination with the feminine beauty and with that of Cecilia Green in particular. Cecilia has been Flint's model, inspiration, assistant and friend for over 15 years and has been portrayed in painting after painting in a different role all the time.

'Sisters at Dinard', £6,000-8,000 is a lovely small work that captures the vivacious spirit of the epoch – of the relaxed, jaunty, playful atmosphere of a 1930s sunny French beach.

'Gypsies on the Beach' £10,000-15,000 shows how much the Mediterranean countries and their exotic flair have inspired the artist, and the always-present fascination with the sensuousness of the female body.



Lothian MSP sings praises of Edinburgh based music school



Alison Johnstone, Green MSP for Lothian has been singing the praises of Drake Music Scotland after the Niddrie-based charity won a top award.

Ms Johnstone, education spokesperson for the Scottish Greens,

lodged a motion in the Scottish Parliament congratulating the organisation's users, volunteers and staff on winning Best Special Educational Needs Resource at the Music Teacher Awards for Excellence.

She said: "Drake Music provides great opportunities for people with disabilities, and I'm delighted to see their specialist teaching methods being recognised. Participation in music is an important part of child development and wellbeing.

"Music tuition for pupils with additional support needs can be patchy, so I hope this award highlights the good work being done and encourages local authorities and government agencies to build a stronger network of music education services."

Huge success of Recruitment & Skills Centre at Fort Kinnaird



Almost 1000 people have benefited from the Recruitment & Skills Centre (RSC) at Fort Kinnaird Shopping Park in six months.

The Centre, which opened in September 2013, has welcomed jobseekers for pre-employment training courses and employers using it for induction programmes and staff training. It also hosted a festive recruitment campaign which saw over 350 people secure temporary Christmas work

A third of those hired for temporary Christmas positions went on to secure permanent employment at Fort Kinnaird.

Liam Smith, Centre Manager at Fort Kinnaird, said: "RSC has had a phenomenally successful first six months and we are sure it is going to continue to grow in popularity throughout 2014 and beyond."

The Centre is housed at Fort Kinnaird, Edinburgh's largest shopping park. It launched the RSC to support its shops, restaurants and support facilities with recruitment and workforce development training needs. It was also established to help jobseekers in the area find and retain employment.



It helps employers find the right candidates by advertising vacancies, providing interview facilities, workforce development and pre-recruitment training. It also offers business growth advice to SMEs. Prospective employees are supported through an offering of a number of services including training, job searches, as well as CV and interview workshops and employment referrals.

Liam added: "As far as we are aware, this is a unique partnership service being offered and supported by a shopping centre. We are delighted to play a role in this important service provision which benefits not only our tenants, but those looking for work in the area.

"There has been a great demand for the services the Centre offers and the team continues to work hard to develop further opportunities to bring employers and jobseekers together."

Ninety per cent of employers who undertook Christmas recruitment did so through the RSC and two thirds of these kept some or all staff on in permanent roles. These stores include well-known brands such as Mothercare, The Range, JD Sports, Toys R Us and the Body Shop.

Already twelve stores have used the Centre for staff recruitment, induction or training purposes involving almost

400 people. There have also been nine pre-employment courses delivered involving around 200 people with more courses planned in the coming months.

RSC is joint venture between Fort Kinnaird and 'Joined Up for Business', Edinburgh's Business Support Service, which seeks to grow employment opportunities by making it easier to do business in Edinburgh. It is a partnership of key agencies which include the City of Edinburgh Council, Business Gateway, Capital City Partnership, JobCentre Plus, Skills Development Scotland, Edinburgh College, NHS Lothian and Edinburgh's 'Joined Up for Jobs' organisations including The Cyrenians who take a leading role in the initiative.

Royal Society of Edinburgh presents In Memoriam

✖ **Life affirming day about death at Royal Society of Edinburgh**

The Royal Society of Edinburgh, in partnership with the University of Dundee, is preparing to host a special day of free events and workshops aimed at encouraging people to prepare for their death. 'In Memoriam' takes place on Saturday 8 March 2014 and promises a life-affirming experience, which will explore through art, writing and discussion, the realities of dying and bereavement.

A range of pop-in events will be on offer throughout the day, including creative writing, storytelling and sculpture workshops. Talks will take place on the history of the Scottish funeral, art and mortality, and science and the body. There will also be a number of art installations to visit, as

well as readings from Dundee University's MLitt students. An evening discussion will follow with Professor Sue Black OBE FRSE, Professor Kirsty Gunn and the Right Reverend Richard Holloway FRSE, Former Bishop of Edinburgh & Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

As a topic, death is often considered taboo, yet a growing number of charities and organisations recognise that talking about dying is the first step in ensuring good end of life care. Only 4% of people have a written end-of-life plan and just 11% have a funeral plan, according to a National Centre for Social Research study.

Created and led by staff from the University of Dundee, In Memoriam won the *Stephen Fry Award for Excellence in Public Engagement with Research* in 2013. Professor Sue Black, Head of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification at the University said:- "In our modern world, death is marginalised and shunned from our daily lives. No longer the impartial friend and the great leveller, it has become the disowned and unacknowledged inevitability. In Memoriam celebrates good living, good death and good grief – a truly enlightening and uplifting experience."

This events at the Royal Society of Edinburgh are free but registration is required in advance.

Hamster abandoned in Wester Hailes



The Scottish SPCA is appealing for information after a hamster

was found abandoned on an Edinburgh street inside a plastic play tube.

Scotland's animal welfare charity was alerted on Saturday (1 March) after a resident of Dumbeg Park, Wester Hailes, found the tiny creature on a pavement.

The brown and white adult male Syrian hamster is now in the care of the Scottish SPCA's Edinburgh and Lothians Animal Rescue and Rehoming Centre, where he has been named Fievel.



Animal Rescue Officer Stephanie Grant said, "Fievel was found at around 4pm on Saturday afternoon inside a blue and transparent plastic tube, which looks like an attachment to a hamster cage.

"The tube was open at one end so he could easily have escaped and come to harm from nearby traffic or predators.

"I also noticed there was no food available for Fievel to eat so it's very lucky he was found alive and well.

"He's a friendly little guy who doesn't mind being handled and he's in good condition so he's clearly been someone's pet.

"However, this doesn't excuse the fact that he's been dumped on the street like a piece of rubbish.

"We'll continue to care for Fievel until we can find him a good home with a loving new owner."

Abandoning an animal is an offence under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and anyone found guilty of doing so can expect to be banned from keeping animals for a fixed period or life.

Anyone with information is being urged to call the Scottish SPCA animal helpline on 03000 999 999.

Forth Ports back at the Cruise Shipping Miami Conference



Following a successful 2013 cruise season, Forth Ports Limited, with cruise terminals serving the UK Capitals of London and Edinburgh will be back at the Cruise Shipping Miami Conference in March, to showcase their cruise destinations to the industry.

As the only port operator in the United Kingdom that can offer direct access to two capital cities, Forth Ports welcomed 130 cruise liners in 2013 bringing over 130,000 visitors to the UK. The business is investing significantly in the cruise operations with a multimillion pound renovation project underway at the historic London cruise terminal to upgrade the facilities and increase the capacity to accommodate larger vessels. In Scotland, we are developing a programme of alternative deep water anchorage options and landing stages to bring larger liners closer to Edinburgh.

This year in Miami, the Forth Ports team will be focussing on their core destinations in London and Edinburgh but will also highlight the cruise offering in Dundee. Dundee is undergoing many changes, with a £1billion renovation of the city's waterfront and the £45 million V&A design museum development. Dundee's modern surroundings will make it a cruise destination for the 21st century offering a unique combination of excellent facilities and fast transport links to attractions such as Glamis Castle, St Andrews and the ancient City of

Perth.

For both London and Edinburgh, the 2014 cruise season is on track for another successful year, with a number of ships booked for the season and schedules for 2015 and 2016 well advanced.

Nik Scott-Gray, Business Development Manager at Forth Ports, commented: "We are excited to be exhibiting at Seatrade again this year. This is a great opportunity to show the industry the offering we have in Scotland and London. We are continually improving the experience for visitors with investment in our cruise terminal facilities and we have launched a new on-board magazine this season for visitors. We pride ourselves on offering an exceptional level of service for cruise lines, providing passengers with their passport to two of the UK's capital cities and surrounding areas. Our 2014 season is looking very healthy and we are delighted to have some advance bookings for 2015 and 2016."

Captain Richard Exley, Marine and Cruise Manager at the Port of Tilbury in London, said: "Forth Ports' cruise terminals had an excellent 2013 season and we're looking forward to a busy 2014. Our Cruise Terminals in London and Edinburgh, the 'quays to the capitals' are currently undergoing significant investment and improvements, and offer an excellent passenger experience with the utmost attention to detail. We offer a first rate service for both passengers and crew and enjoy telling our story on an international stage."

Forth Ports' stand will be part of the Cruise Britain pavilion at Seatrade in Miami from 10th – 13th March.

As part of their ongoing development Forth Ports Group are now members of the CLIA Europe (Cruise Lines International Association), as well as being members of Cruise Britain, Cruise Scotland and Cruise Europe.

Award for East Lothian Hospitality and Tourism Academy



A pioneering project that gives school students the chance to experience college, university and the hospitality industry has been honoured with a prestigious UK-wide Times Educational Supplement Further Education Award.

Edinburgh College won the University HE Access Widening Participation category for its part in the East Lothian Hospitality and Tourism Academy – a partnership between the college, Queen Margaret University (QMU) and East Lothian Council. The college was one of only two Scottish winners at the awards, with Forth Valley College's Richard Reid winning Most Innovative Teacher of the Year.

The academy, which was launched in 2012, impressed the judges for the way it smoothes the transition between school, college and university, addressing a target of the Scottish Government. The project for 16-18-year-olds aims to open up opportunities for those who might not have considered themselves suited for further or higher education.

In its first year, the academy recruited 34 S5 and S6 pupils from East Lothian schools and gave them the chance to take part in a two-year programme of practical work experience and theory at Edinburgh College and QMU, leading to industry-recognised qualifications. Following this initial two-year programme, students can move on to a related course at the college or university, or to a job in the sector. Thirty of

the first group of students completed HNC and employability modules, with 18 going on to study the full HNC in 2013-14 while still at school, four progressing to Edinburgh College to study the SVQ2 Professional Cookery, and eight moving into employment.

Employers supporting the academy include Marriott, Novotel, Macdonald Hotels and Resorts, Jurys Inn, Mercure, Prestonfield, Best Western and Fraser Suites Edinburgh.

Awards judges said: "This is a solid project based on strong partnerships with the higher education sector and major businesses." They said they were impressed by the range of powerful testimonials from the college's industry partners.

Ray McCowan, Edinburgh College vice principal, said: "We are thrilled to have received recognition for our academy. The Times Educational Supplement FE award reinforces the reasons why we set up the academy in the first place, to meet the needs of young people and inspire them to learn and study in a way that suits them and that will ultimately benefit industry. The award is testament to the great work the college, QMU, East Lothian Council and our employer partners have been doing. The contributions from employers since the beginning have been invaluable in providing insight into the industry, making the project truly distinctive."

Sixteen-year-old Musselburgh Grammar pupil Lauren Cain is just one of the academy's success stories. Over the last year, she has addressed 100 guests at the academy's reception in the Scottish Parliament; spent time working at Novotel; competed in the national ScotHot hospitality championships; and taken classes at both Edinburgh College and QMU.

Lauren said: "The academy is definitely giving me ideas about what I might choose to do in the future. I know that because of my time at the academy I've got options that I wouldn't have had had I not taken part."

The success of the project has led to a £4.6million award from the Scottish Funding Council to develop academies in other subjects. Three new academies launched in August 2013, giving pupils from more schools in the Lothians and Borders the opportunity to learn about careers in the creative industries; food science and nutrition; and health and social care.

Photography caption: L-R Comedian Jo Brand, Ray McCowan, Edinburgh College vice principal and Andy Westwood, chief executive of GuildHE.

CIS Cup winner David Murphy forced to retire



Former Hibs' star David Murphy has announced his retirement from the game due to a reoccurring knee problem, just two days after his 30th birthday.

The popular left back was signed by Tony Mowbray on a free transfer from Middlesbrough and played 134 times for Hibs including the CIS Cup Final win over Kilmarnock in 2007 and scored a match winning goal at Ibrox to put Hibs top of the SPL for the first time in seven years.

In January 2008 he moved to Birmingham City for £1m where he made 132 appearances however injury limited him to only 20 games during the last two seasons. He did win a Carling Cup medal with the Blues as an unused substitute against Arsenal in 2011.

Explaining the decision, Murphy told the City website: "All of

my rehabilitation went as well as it could have done and I managed to return to playing for a brief spell.

“However, I wasn’t able to sustain the heights of my previous form and as a result I have no option but to retire.

“Having sought advice from the surgeon and medical staff at the football club, I had to make sure in my own mind that I was ready to retire. I have reached that decision and will look forward to the next chapter in my life.”

Blues’ manager Lee Clark said that Murphy was the most talented left-back the Championship had seen in recent years.

“From a personal point of view, it’s always sad when a player has to end his career through injury,” the Blues boss admitted to bcfc.com. “It’s a career that had no much potential. He’s done a lot during his time in the game but he could have done even more because of his ability. He’s still a young age really, and should be coming into his best years. It’s a sad day.

“When I joined the club I was looking forward to working with the two best full-backs in the division in my team. But unfortunately Stephen Carr had to make the same decision and didn’t play many games under me. David has been the same and we’ve basically lost the two best full-backs outside of the Premier League because of circumstances beyond my control, which has been a big blow.”

Clark added: “I don’t know where Murph’s future lies and whether he plans to go into coaching but the club and myself would be prepared to help him on that side of things. I know he’s got other interests outside the game and we wish him well, whatever he decides to do.”

Hundreds of messages of support from both Hibs and Birmingham fans appeared on social network sites.

Former teammate Chris Hogg tweeted: "Sorry to hear David Murphy has retired. Top pro and a pleasure to play with. I'm sure he will be a success whatever he does next."

The Edinburgh Reporter wishes David well in his future career.

Police investigate Corstorphine bank robbery



Police are appealing for witnesses following a robbery at a bank in the west of the city which incident happened around 9.30am yesterday at the Royal Bank of Scotland on St John's Road.

A male entered the building and walked up to the counter before threatening a member of staff and demanding money.

He then made off with a four-figure sum of cash in an orange TESCO carrier bag and entered a black cab, which headed west.

Officers are now urging anyone who can assist with their enquiries to come forward.

The suspect is described as white, late twenties to early thirties, 6ft 4ins tall and wearing a black beanie hat, dark-coloured waist-length jacket and brown trousers.

Detective Inspector Rory Hamilton said: "At no time was any weapon used or seen by staff or customers within the bank. However, the suspect was still able to make off with thousands of pounds and we are keen to hear from anyone who can help us in tracing this individual."

“Anyone who was on St John’s Road at around 9.30am on Monday morning and remembers seeing anything suspicious is asked to contact police immediately.

“We believe the male may have arrived and departed from the scene in the same black cab and we are in the process of speaking to the city’s taxi companies as part of our investigation. Any drivers who believe they may have taken this man to and from the bank is also asked to get in touch.”

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or alternatively, the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



EdinburghReportage – Edinburgh Ceilidh Club – Craigmillar Community High School – Travelling Gallery – A tram journey

EdinburghReportage has a storyboard asking for photos or indeed text about clocks around the city. Where is your favourite?

Add your contribution [to the clocks theme here.](#)

The Edinburgh Ceilidh Club meets at Summerhall tonight. Tickets are £6.

More details [on their Facebook page.](#)

Their school [was threatened with closure last year](#), but from the looks of things the pupils at Castlebrae Community High School appear to be having a good time. Have a look at them out at Bridge 8 Hub with Sean Barry. They were canoeing on the canal. [Bridge 8 Facebook Page](#) has the photographic evidence!

❌ The Travelling Gallery needs you if you have time to help them with [Rachel McLean's I Heart Scotland](#) exhibition.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Love contemporary art?

Looking for experience in gallery / art education work?

Interested in bringing our exhibitions to schools and communities all round Scotland?

Or keen to assist with marketing, digital development or carbon monitoring?

We are looking for enthusiastic and energetic volunteers to help bring Rachel Maclean's I HEART SCOTLAND exhibition to schools and communities!

*If you can commit to 20 hours per week for between 3 – 6 months and you are aged between 18 – 30 you may be eligible for a **Project Scotland** placement. **But if you can just offer the odd day we'd still like to hear from you.** Send your cv and a statement saying why you want to volunteer with us to alison.chisholm@edinburgh.gov.uk.*

Edinburgh Trams are now a more common sight on the city centre

streets. But if you would like to take the whole 22 minute journey from Edinburgh Airport to York Place you can now do that. Here is the Edinburgh Trams video of the entire journey...(just a pity they didn't set it to music!)

Belhaven Hill School takes learning outside the classroom

Belhaven Hill School Takes Learning Outside the Classroom

With its safe parkland campus and proximity to the beach in Dunbar, outdoor education has always been part of Belhaven Hill's rich all-round ethos. Building on existing activities, such as Design and Technology, its Conservation Club and Gardening Club, it is a natural progression for Outdoor Education to become a more integral part of the school curriculum while still focusing on providing an excellent academic education with plenty of sport and extra-curricular activities.

"Outdoor Education for many people conjures up visions of outward bounds, lighting fires and bush craft. While these are part of teaching at Belhaven, our vision of Outdoor Education is more about promoting a rounded approach to teaching with learning outside the classroom playing a key role," says Innes MacAskill, Belhaven's headmaster.

"Last September we started taking younger day pupils from age 7 (Form 6) and, as studies have shown that learning levels improve through hands-on experience, we decided to introduce

more Outdoor Education into the curriculum for our seven and eight year olds.”

Innes MacAskill continues: “The 3 Rs and other stalwarts of a classical education remain our fundamental building blocks, and academic excellence is key. However, we aim to promote a practical application of these skills, encouraging children to see their value in everyday life – for example using numerical and measuring skills to measure out the school grounds, and then translating these into a scale model of the school in Design and Technology.”

Belhaven is running an Inside Out Fun Morning on Saturday 15 March (10.15 am – 12.30 pm) for young boys and girls and their parents. Visitors will have lots of fun experiencing learning inside and outside the classroom, alongside Belhaven Hill pupils. To book, please call 01368 862785 or email secretary@belhavenhill.com <http://www.belhavenhill.com>

Peter Bailey, Belhaven’s recently appointed teacher for Outdoor Education, adds: “Taking a group of eight year olds outside to dig soil with their hands led to discussion about the types of soil available, and produced a rich array of adjectives to turn into poetry and prose for classroom work. In History, we’ve looked at the school buildings and related them to events in the school’s past, or simply asked ‘What have those trees seen in their life?’

“Given Belhaven’s beautiful grounds, nearby beaches, and ever changing climate, building an enquiring appreciation of the environment is a natural evolution for the school’s curriculum. Adding these elements into Belhaven’s strong educational foundations is an exciting journey.

“We’re planning a phenology project to record the changing seasons with observations and photographs of the same trees and plants taken every week to track the changes through time,” says Peter Bailey.

“Combined with a weather station, this will provide a powerful resource for Belhaven students to observe and record changing seasons in a ‘school life diary’.”

Peter Bailey concludes: “The Scottish Government is a leading light in all of this, as outdoor learning has a prominent position in their Curriculum for Excellence. Because of its independent status, Belhaven Hill has the experience, flexibility and confidence to take the best from both the National Curriculum and Curriculum for Excellence by supporting the four core themes of helping each pupil become a ‘successful learner, a confident individual, a responsible citizen and an effective contributor’.”

The John Muir Trust in neighbouring Dunbar also encourages Outdoor Education and states: “We support the term ‘learning for sustainability’ to integrate thinking on sustainable development education, global citizenship and outdoor learning...”

Peter Bailey has a post graduate qualification in Outdoor Education, combined with a diverse career in the UK and abroad, both inside and out, ranging from farming, lecturing and mineral exploration, to natural resource development in international aid. Peter joined Belhaven last September and wants to draw on his experience and imagination to bring the environment to life, and apply it to classroom learning.

Submitted by [Christopher Lamotte](#)



Ice Hockey – Edinburgh Capitals v Braehead Clan

 *Capitals beat Clan in double-header return match at Murrayfield.*



Coming off the back of a narrow 2-1 defeat to fifth placed Braehead Clan on the Saturday, Edinburgh Capitals were confident of going one better at home the following night. And in a fine display throughout the match, they overcame the Clan's dominance in the third to score a short-handed goal for the match.

The first period was fairly even with the Capitals, perhaps, just having the edge. Both teams had chances, but some fine saves, coupled with a bit of inaccuracy from the shooters kept the scores level until the 11th minute. A rebound from a Richard Hartmann shot on goal was pounced on by the Capitals attackers and No 11, Curtis Leinweber, was first to the puck and stabbed it under the pads of the Clan's Kyle Jones in goal for the opener (assists – 36, 17). For the rest of the period, both sides had a few attempts at goal, with the Capitals pulling a couple of saves out of Jones. At the other end, any attacks from the Clan were easily mopped up by the home defence, so, apart from the one goal-mouth scramble, they were reduced to shooting from distance. The period ended with the Capitals retaining their one goal lead, and, remarkably, there were no sin-binnings from either team in what was to be a very low – four in all – penalty count match.



The second period proved to be a goalless one, with the Clan coming as close as possible to scoring by appearing to have the puck across the line. However, the officials ruled on foul play so the goal was disallowed. Again, both sides had their chances, but with no further scores it was still 1-0 to Edinburgh. This period also ended with the highest penalty count of the match with one player from each side cooling

their heels for two minutes.

The third and final period was to prove decisive for the Capitals as they were to score their second goal of the match. Weathering an early scrum in the goal area, they found themselves with a player in the bin for hooking. Nothing daunted, however, and in the sixth minute of the period – second of the penalty – Leinweber broke clear of the pack and charged up the ice to fire a fierce shot past Jones and into the back of the Clan's net for his and the Capitals' second goal (top). 2-0 to the Capitals and the Clan were looking like a beaten side. However, they picked themselves up and spent the next ten minutes trying to break down the Capitals' defence.



A few minutes before the final hooter, Marcus Zembergs broke up the ice and was chased down by a Clan defender who poked and prodded at him and eventually brought him down just short of the goal crease. The referee awarded the Capitals a penalty shot, but didn't seem to find it necessary to bin the offending player. Zembergs was awarded the opportunity but Jones in the Clan goal was more than equal to the task and saved the final shot. And that should have been that, but the 'final minute time bomb' that has existed in a few matches this year, blew up on the Capitals and, with 46 seconds left on the clock, the Clan were awarded a penalty shot of their own. This time it was Tomas Hiadlovsky's turn in the Capitals net to save the day and he easily stopped the shot from No 19, Neil Trimm. A time-out with 26 seconds to go saw the Clan keeper pulled from the ice, but to no avail as the match ended on the hooter with the Capitals the 2-0 winners

A fine win – and their first shut-out since January 2008 – for the Edinburgh Capitals against strong opposition from the fifth place Clan. It doesn't do anything for the Capitals league position and may affect the Clan's Conference title hopes for this season, but must do something for the overall confidence of the club.

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

The Edinburgh Reporter's Weekly Sports Roundup



Rugby by John Preece

In spite of leading 22-11 at half time, Edinburgh allowed Ospreys to get within a single score during the second half, but fine kicking from Carl Bezuidenhout kept them in the lead and they won the match 31-25. Full report is available elsewhere in the 'Sports' pages.

In the RBS Premiership Heriots and Edinburgh Academy both lost – Heriots 38-31 away to Glasgow Hawks and Accies 22-11 away at Ayr. Currie on the other hand, belied their poor start to the season with a 45-17 at home against Hawick.

Heriots are still third with 54 points, but Accies are now seventh with 30. Currie, however, continue their meteoric rise of the last few fixtures and have climbed out of the 'relegation zone' to lie in sixth place, also with 30 points, but one fewer loss than Accies.

In the National League, Stewarts/Melville almost 'did an Edinburgh' but they also held on for their 27-22 win against Kelso at home (Full report is available elsewhere in the 'Sports' pages).

Boroughmuir continued their amble through the fixture list with a 22-8 win at Biggar and Watsonians – vying for a play-off place with Stew-Mel – beat GHA 45-15. With both teams winning with bonus points, it's all down to the final round at Myreside in a couple of weeks.

The table is unchanged with Boroughmuir – now Champions – Stew-Mel and Watsonians filling the top three places with 73, 62 and 58 points respectively.

SPFL Football

Friday night football came to the capital for the first time when Dundee United visited Easter Road and secured a comfortable 3-1 win despite missing two penalties.

Nadir Ciftci opened the scoring in the 43rd minute but Hibs fought back immediately through Jordon Forster. Gavin Gunning put the Tayside club 2-1 up eleven minutes after the break and substitute Farid El Alagui wrapped things up near the end.

Tom Taiwo was sent off after receiving two yellow cards.

On Saturday Hearts travelled to Motherwell and lost 4-1 leaving the youngsters stranded at the bottom of the table.

Goals from Iain Vigurs, Lionel Ainsworth and John Sutton gave 'Well a 3-0 lead before Callum Paterson pulled one back. James McFadden added a fourth near the end,

Hibs remain in 7th place three points behind St Johnstone whilst Hearts are now 20 points behind Ross County and look certainties to be relegated.

Elsewhere congratulations to former Hibs' star Leigh Griffiths who scored his first hat-trick for Celtic and commiserations to ex Hibs' striker Steven Fletcher whose Sunderland team were beaten 3-1 in the League Cup final at Wembley by Manchester City.

Scottish Sun Lowland League

Spartans extended their lead at the top of the Scottish Sun Lowland League with a 4-0 win over Threave Rovers.

The north Edinburgh side took the lead in the 31st minute

through Chris Anderson who then doubled their lead four minutes after the break

With fifteen minutes to go, Spartans further extended their lead thanks to Jack Beesley who lifted the ball over the Rovers' keeper in the net to make it 3-0.

With 10 minutes remaining the prolific Keith McLeod blasted home his 26th in 26 appearances this season to make the score 4-0.

After the game Anderson told the club website: "It was a good team performance. The first half was a bit flat from us, however we stepped up a gear in the second half and we had plenty chances to score more goals. It's obviously a good result for Welfare and not one the Uni side were after however we just need to concentrate on ourselves and keep winning. We are playing well at the moment and we'll continue to work hard to maintain our momentum as the season builds up to the business end of proceedings."

Elsewhere

East Kilbride 2-3 Gala Fairydean Rovers

Edinburgh City 4-1 Preston Athletic

Whitehill Welfare 1-0 University of Stirling

Scottish Sun Lowland League Cup, Groupstage, Section A

Selkirk 1-3 Vale of Leithen

Scottish Sun Lowland League Cup, Groupstage, Section C

Gretna 2008 4-0 Dalbeattie Star

Central Taxis East of Scotland League Premier Division

Coldstream 0-1 Heriot-Watt University

Craigroyston 2-1 Leith Athletic

Lothian Thistle Hutchison Vale 2-1 Tynecastle

Spartans 0-2 Civil Service Strollers

Central Taxis First Division

Berwick Rangers Reserves 2-0 Peebles Rovers

Eyemouth United 0-1 Kelso United

Hibernian 8-0 Burntisland Shipyard

Ormiston 0-5 Easthouses Lily

East of Scotland Qualifying League, Section B

Hawick Royal Albert 2-1 Duns

Stirling University P-P Edinburgh University

Women's Football

Hibs' Ladies started the season with an emphatic 12-0 win over Hutchison Vale at Albyn Park to progress to the 2nd round of the League Cup

Ice Hockey by John Preece

Clan timeously ended a 4-game losing run by edging Capitals by the odd goal in three to remain very much in the hunt in the race to finish runners up to Belfast in the final league standings.

A second period strike by Matt Towe was enough to secure the points as the home side survived a nervous finish with Capitals always liable to sneak a goal in their forays around the Clan net. The home side dominated possession throughout but only took a single advantage after the opening period with skipper Ash Goldie on target at 12.02.



Capitals shocked the large home crowd by tying the game inside the opening minute of period two with Curtis Leinweber being credited with the final touch only 29 seconds in but Clan hit the front again at 26.23 thanks to Towe's strike and with neither side able to add to their tally it was Ryan Finnerty's side who claimed the points and a 2-1 confidence boost going into the rematch between the sides in Edinburgh on Sunday. (Report courtesy of the EIHL's R&J Stats)

In the aforementioned rematch, Braehead Clan looked decidedly the lesser of the two teams at Murrayfield. Edinburgh scored their first goal in the first period and maintained their lead through the goal-less second. Another in the third period gave the home side a 2-0 lead which they held until the end, in spite of both sides being awarded, and missing, a penalty.

(Full report is available elsewhere in the 'Sports' pages).

Boxing

South Queensferry's Paul Appleby lost narrowly to Scot Cardle after being stopped in the final round on the Ricky Burns' card at the SSEC in Glasgow on Saturday evening.

Both fighters put in a brave performance and with the scores level, Cardle caught Appleby with a strong punch midway through the round, knocking him down. Appleby sprung to his feet and was visibly angry when the referee stopped the bout.

Afterwards he said: "O thought I could have continued. It was the last round. It was a heavy knockdown but I'm OK. I am fit and sprung back up. Of I wasn't fit I wouldn't have been able to get up from a shot like that."

Speedway courtesy of the Edinburgh Scotwaste Monarchs website

Despite two other major sporting events taking place in Edinburgh on Friday evening there was a fine turn out for the

away video show at the Thomas Morton Hall.

It is when you see a show like this that you realise what great racing the Scotwaste Monarchs produced last season. Craig Cook was involved in much of it but all the team had their moments and those moments were all very special.

Max Fricke was in attendance, looking bronzed from his trip home during the winter and, he thought, two inches taller also. He can't wait to get started and although he has been offered opportunities in Denmark and Poland he confirmed that the Scotwaste Monarchs would be his priority.

It was confirmed that supporters are invited to Armadale Stadium on Saturday 22nd March from 5.00pm to 7.00pm to see the team in pre-season practice.

The next event in the calendar is the air fence fund raiser, "A brief History of speedway racing in Edinburgh" and that is less than two weeks away at Meggetland on 14th March. A few tickets are still available.

Basketball

Dunfermline Reign SM 93-76 Stirling Knights SM

Glasgow Rocks SM 79-72 Boroughmuir Blaze SM

St Mirren West College Scotland SM 106-57 Glasgow Storm

Clark Eriksson Fury SM 61-54 City of Edinburgh Kings SM

Polonia Phoenix SW 55-33 Clark Eriksson Fury SW

Polonia Phoenix SW 32-71 City of Edinburgh Kool Kats SW

St Mirren West College Scotland SW 53-60 Lady Rocks SW

Photos by John Preece

<http://www.photoboxgallery.com/jlp-photography>

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Crime Panel Evening – Drama in Wester Hailes – SCO at The Queen’s Hall – World Book Day Tour at NLS – Union Gallery

Craig Robertson, Malcolm MacKay, Michael Malone

[The Sudden Arrival of Violence: The Glasgow Trilogy Book 3 – The Glasgow Trilogy 3](#)

WATERSTONE’S LIVINGSTON

Thursday, 6 March 2014, 6:30PM – 8:00PM tickets are free from the shop.

We have three of Scotlands best young writers coming to talk about their work. All three are very different to the usual crime author and this will be a fun and energetic evening of exchanges between the three. Tickets are free and our coffee shop will be open for refreshments.

A magical and musical theatre production, celebrating the wonder of worms by Glasgow based Children’s Theatre Company **Eco Drama**, is winding its way to WHALE Arts in Edinburgh on Friday March 21 after a sell-out tour.

The performance on Friday 21 March 2014 at WHALE Arts, will mark the end of a 47 date tour of schools and venues in the Central Belt, including sold out performances at the Eastwood Theatre and Paisley Arts Centre. In fact, over 1500 children will have seen the show by the end of this tour, with more

anticipated in the summer when the production will visit various festivals along with more schools and venues.

This hugely popular production is an immersive, musical tale celebrating the wonder of life beneath our feet. It has bundles of humour, music and interaction and is a perfectly intimate show for 3-7 year olds, their parents and carers.

Wilma and William, two nature lovers, find themselves on a journey underground as they seek a glimpse of the wonderful wriggly creature they have always dreamed of seeing. To their delight, they encounter a family of friendly, musical worms, who invite them into their tiny underground home, complete with miniature couch, toilet and other surprising delights. Making friends with Wee Wilma, the youngest member of the family, they help her find the courage to explore the grassy world above and she too discovers a new, wonderful world, which comes with its own colourful reward!

With laugh out loud songs, including one about the significance of worm poo, and colourful knitted bobble hats, children will marvel at the wonder of worms and their importance in our natural world. They'll even get the opportunity to meet some real-life wriggly worms through a specially designed glass Wormery after the performance. **'The Worm'** is devised and directed by Emily Reid, and devised and performed by Caroline Mathison and Alistair Edwards. The colourful and surprising set is designed by Claire Halleran. It also features a range of instruments including cello, ukulele and loop pedal.

Eco Drama is a touring children's theatre company based in Glasgow, who use theatre to engage and inspire children, young people and the wider community to look after the natural world. Previous productions have included the widely acclaimed **'Isle of Egg'** and **'The Forgotten Orchard'**. In 2013, **Eco Drama** was awarded the Scottish Government's Greener Together Award as well as the best Community Initiative at the Scottish Green

Awards.

For more information about '**The Worm – An Underground Adventure**' or **Eco Drama** please visit www.ecodrama.co.uk

To book tickets to see the Worm at Whale Arts phone: Tel: 0131 458 3267

At The Queen's Hall on 6 March 2014 the Scottish Chamber Orchestra are playing Mozart's Jupiter. With a pre concert talk at 6.30pm with SCO brass players provide insight into performing with natural horns and trumpets.

Schubert: Symphony No 2

Haydn: Piano Concerto in D

Mozart: Symphony No 41 'Jupiter'

Richard Egarr: conductor/piano

[Booking details here.](#)

☐ World Book Day is on Thursday 6 March 2014. On the day you can go for a National Library tour

As part of World Book Day, learn about the National Library's collections, services, exhibitions and events. Enjoy a tour of the public areas and behind the scenes. The tour will last around 45 minutes. Please let them know if you have special access requirements.

6 March

Tours start at 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 14.00, 15.00 and 16.00

Free. [Book online](#) or phone 0131 623 3734.

[Union Gallery](#) have a new exhibition opening on 6 March 2014.

Keith Epps: Dark Arcadias runs till 1 April 2014

"This is a fascinating exhibition of beautiful, highly representational landscapes which, upon closer inspection, show us a far deeper, more subversive world. Keith Epps' inspiration comes from the concept of Et in Arcadia Ego – where the dark and painful exist within the light and beautiful. And so there amongst the perfectly created trees, hills and farm animals, darker forces are at work: dead bodies hiding under a bush; a lonely figure wading into a lake; the burnt out carcass of a military vehicle leaving a brutal scar on its beautiful home.

"These works have a beauty and a depth to them that will fascinate those who view them and the exhibition firmly places Keith Epps amongst those artists we should all be watching."

Stew-Mel hold on to take the win at Inverleith



In a bit of a *deja-vu* match (from the previous evening) at Inverleith, the home side almost threw away a substantial lead to hold on and take a narrow victory against Kelso in the penultimate round of the RBS National League.

On the offensive from the off, Stew-Mel scored their first try after less than four minutes of play. Breaking through the Kelso lines, they were quickly into the opponents 22 and with the defence struggling to get back a simple pass put No 15, Mike Hanning over for a touch down under the posts. Nick McCashin missed the easy conversion as he blasted the ball low into one of the Kelso players. Kelso soon struck back with a penalty

from their No 10, Matthew Douglas to take the score to 5-3 with just under 10 minutes on the clock.

Stew-Mel almost struck back immediately but Douglas was having an off-day and missed the penalty. It didn't take long for their next score, however, as lineout ball was quickly passed along the backs line and No 12, Neil Bowie, galloped over the line only to be grabbed by Kelso's No 7, Gordon Harkins with a tackle straight out of a 'Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner' cartoon! The flanker stretched out a despairing arm and caught Bowie under the chin, effectively, stopping his head while the rest of his body carried on in the great tradition of the cartoon series. Seriously though, the tackle could have resulted in a significant injury to the player and the referee had no option but to bin Harkins and award a penalty try, which McClashin knocked over to take the lead out to 12-3. Another penalty for Stew-Mel then saw the score up to 15-3 with less than 20 minutes played.

Kelso then went on an offensive of their own and less than five minutes later, their attacking line out flanked the home defence and No 12 Frankie Robson, evaded the diving Matt Morrell and ran in for Kelso's first try. Douglas missed the kick from wide out, so the score now stood at 15-8 to Stew-Mel. The next few minutes of play were largely dominated by the home side and they received their just reward when another fine piece of interplay put Morrell through for a try under the posts. Again, McClashin, scored the conversion and Stew-Mel had a, fairly comfortable, 22-8 lead. A penalty awarded in front of the posts to Kelso, earned Stew-Mel a yellow, and Kelso three points, which they augmented a few minutes before the break to leave the half time score 22-14 to Stew-Mel.



The second half started as had the first, with the home side on the attack and, 10 minutes in, Morrell evaded the Kelso defence out wide and scored his second try of the match, to bring the score up to 27-14. Due to a bit of foul play later in the half, Stew-Mel found themselves down to 13 as two yellows were 'earned' within minutes of each other and Kelso tried to take full advantage. They had to settle, however for a three points from another Douglas penalty to make the score 27-17. Once the

hosts were back up to full strength, Stew-Mel did manage a break out through Morrell, and another attack up the right which was defended well by Kelso. The visitors then turned up the heat a bit and hammered away at the home defence, playing some of their best rugby of the game. And they were to be rewarded as they spread the defence out on the left, then 'bad boy' of the first half, Harkins handed the ball out of a tackle to No 19, Dom Buckley, who crashed over for the try. Douglas missed the kick, but Kelso were now within five points at 27-22. The last few minutes of the match were spent mostly in the Stew-Mel half, but Kelso couldn't get the final break they needed to score so the match ended with Stew-Mel the, possibly fortunate, winners 27-22.

So another Edinburgh side secures a decent lead then almost throws it away with a not so clever second half performance. Again, too many penalties, gave the visitors the chance to keep in touch and, ultimately, get within a single score of taking the match.

The final round of the National League is played out on 22nd March with Watsonians playing host to Stew-Mel. With Boroughmuir already crowned champions, a bonus point win for 'Sonians will see them secure second place and a play-off slot for promotion. Anything else should see Stew-Mel over the finishing line. It's 'all to play for...' as they say....

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

Concern for missing Edinburgh man



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

Jonathan Davidson was last seen in Smith's Place at around 5.15pm yesterday (Saturday).

Since then, however, the 23-year-old is has not been seen or heard from and concern is now growing for his well-being.

Anyone who can assist officers with their enquiries to locate Jonathan is asked to contact police immediately.

He is described as white, 5ft 11ins tall with a slim build, medium length and brown hair. He was last seen wearing a dark parka-style jacket and a yellow/brown checked shirt.

Inspector Allan Symington said: "Since last being seen on Saturday evening Jonathan has not made any contact with family or friends and we are eager to establish his whereabouts as soon as possible to ensure he is safe and well.

"Anyone who believes they have seen him since his last sighting on Smith's Place is asked to come forward.

"Similarly, anyone with any further information relating to Jonathan's location is also asked to get in touch."

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or alternatively, the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Witness appeal after fatal accident in Silverknowes Road.



Police are appealing for witnesses following a fatal collision

on Saturday evening which took place around 10.15PM in Silverknowes Road.

A 21-year-old male came off his white and red Yamaha motorcycle and suffered serious injuries.

The rider was wearing protective motorcycle clothing and a helmet at the time of the collision but despite treatment by Scottish Ambulance Service personnel he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Road Policing Officers are now urging anyone who can assist with their enquiries to come forward.

Sergeant Ross Drummond of Edinburgh's Divisional Road Policing Unit stated; I wish to appeal to any person who was at or near the location at the time and who may have information that could assist us with our enquiries to contact Police as soon as possible on 101."

Jojo Sutherland, launches new corporate/comedy style workshop



Scottish comedian, writer and broadcaster, Jojo Sutherland, launches a new corporate/comedy style workshop, entitled, 'Stand-up and Be Counted', for businesswomen across the UK, to help improve confidence and self-esteem in the boardroom.

The sessions, all hosted by Jojo who has just returned from performing stand-up for the troops, provides tips and

techniques used in the comedy world to help tackle difficult situations in the workplace. The key focus is to address fears and doubts women may have in everything from presentations skills to networking and dealing with demanding clients to interpreting and using the right body language, by delving into the psychology behind them.

The birth of the idea came from the years' of experience Jojo has had not only as a comedian but also from workshops she has delivered, for over a decade, to people with long term mental and physical ill-health, using comedy to promote confidence and well-being, and also comedy courses she has run for aspiring comics to help them break into the notoriously difficult world of stand-up.

Jojo said: "Moving into the corporate world felt like a natural progression for me especially at a time when the focus from large organisation is on gender targets for senior management positions.

"Women are very good at getting their point across, however there are times when they might feel intimidated or inadequate which is what I intend to tackle through these light-hearted, fun workshops and hopefully give women the tools to overcome these fears and implement them into their daily work life."

Helen Gray, founder of FITNESS STUDIO EH1, who recently attended one of the workshops, said: "Bringing a comedy element to everyday work situations is a great, alternative way to help deal with things like the fear of public speaking, how to network effectively and be more assertive.

"Jojo touched on lots of very funny examples and experiences herself, and also managed to get us all doing this too in a non-cringing way and without role-playing!

"It was refreshing and entertaining, and has to be the best

business workshop I have attended. It has helped me to start thinking more about turning the negatives into positives and how to use these to my advantage, and also even more importantly it has given me the confidence to be more open, which feels very empowering.”

Jojo, also gives tips on using comedy to calm an audience, dealing with business hecklers, answering difficult questions, the importance of having a solid opening line and how to deliver a more upbeat and convincing presentation overall.

Angela Tunnah, RBS Business specialist/women in business ambassador said: “We recently invited Jojo in to do one of her workshops for us and it was a huge hit amongst our businesswomen looking to either climb the ladder, be more assertive and confident or looking for tips on how to approach dreaded situations from a different perspective.

“She is such an inspirational woman who has a great way of making people feel at ease when opening up about their fears and inhibitions – I have even asked her to be my own personal mentor!

“Going by the overwhelming, positive feedback received, her Stand-up and Be Counted workshops are guaranteed to be a huge success.”

Jojo’s focus for now is on businesswomen as there are so many personal learnings and experiences over the years which she can give to other women, however she isn’t ruling out extending it to businessmen in the future.

Jojo continued: “I feel that it is important for everyone to get the most from whatever career path you take and to have the courage of your own convictions.

“I’m confident anyone who joins my workshops will leave feeling not only empowered but also having had good fun learning a few techniques which will help them to “Stand-up

and be Counted" in all areas of their life."

The Stand-up and Be Counted workshops, which last three hours, start from £199 per person per session. Prices are reduced for larger group sizes and block bookings. Call Allan Donaldson on 07500 875789 for further information and bookings.

Letter to the Editor



This is a letter from John Barrowman who is ambassador for the National Lottery Awards.

Dear Sir,

We would love to hear from your readers about local National Lottery funded projects that deserve national recognition for their work.

The National Lottery Awards, the annual celebration of the UK's favourite Lottery-funded projects, shine a light on the diverse range of organisations using funding to transform communities and change lives. Every week National Lottery players raise £33 million for good causes and over 420,000 Lottery grants have been awarded since 1994.

Seven projects will be recognised at a star-studded event broadcast on BBC One later this year and win a £2,000 cash prize.

Readers can visit www.nationallotteryawards.org.uk to nominate projects. All entries must be in by midnight on Wednesday March 12.

Yours faithfully,

John Barrowman

National Lottery Awards Ambassador

The National Lottery Awards

C/o 1 Plough Place

London

EC4A 1DE

Motherwell 4 Heart of

Midlothian 1



Hearts record at Motherwell isn't particularly impressive so when manager Gary Locke spoke before the game of his hope that his young team would embark on a run of victories which would make the teams immediately above Hearts in the SPFL Premiership uncomfortable, it was difficult to believe his words had much substance. And so it proved on Saturday as the Maroons slipped closer to the now inevitable relegation trapdoor following a comprehensive defeat in darkest Lanarkshire.

Yet Hearts, unchanged from last week's decent effort against league champions Celtic, began the game brightly with Calum Paterson looking lively up front. That said, it was the home team who created the game's first real chance when a shot from Ainsworth took a deflection off Scott Robinson, forcing keeper Jamie MacDonald to push the ball over the crossbar.

It was the kick-start the home side needed and they began to dominate proceedings. In the 18th minute, their pressure eventually told on the visitors. The always-dangerous McFadden set up Vigurs who created space and time before shooting all too easily past Jamie Mac to put the Steelmen a goal up.

Hearts then threatened briefly when Ryan Stevenson saw his free-kick go just wide of goal before Paul McCallum saw his header go just over the crossbar. However, the pattern of the game remained much the same with Motherwell looking dangerous whenever they came forward. It was scarcely a surprise when they doubled their lead eight minutes before half-time. Again, it was the former Scotland international McFadden who was the architect when he launched a high pass towards Ainsworth who produced a fine finish to leave MacDonald helpless and put the home side 2-0 ahead. There endeth the first half scoring,

although McFadden should have added a third but saw his header go narrowly over the bar.

The second half followed much the same pattern as the first and Vigurs, Lasley and Leitch all had chances to increase the home side's lead. That said, it was Hearts who almost scored next when Dale Carrick's superb effort clipped the Motherwell crossbar. Twenty minutes into the second half, Motherwell sealed all three points when former Hearts striker John Sutton scored the third goal after McFadden had again tormented the Hearts defence.

Four minutes later there was a small glimmer of hope for the vociferous travelling support when Callum Paterson headed home Kevin McHattie's corner to make it 3-1. This hope didn't last long, however, when man of the match McFadden headed home Vigur's corner to complete the scoring and another miserable afternoon for Hearts.

Gary Locke didn't mince his words in the press conference after the game.

"We've taken great strides in the last few weeks, but today we've gone backwards again. You're never going to win a game if only three or four players turn up. We've got to make sure we compete all the time, and today we were second best in too many areas of the pitch. It's a young team and we're learning all the time. You've got to work hard to get anything out of games in this league, and I felt Motherwell – especially James McFadden and his experience – caused us all sorts of problems which we never got to grip with."

With Hearts now 20 points behind Partick Thistle and Ross County at the foot of the Army, the Gorgie side are just four games away from relegation and may well have suffered this fate before Easter.

Looking to come straight back up to the top flight a year from now must be the focus of everyone at Tynecastle.

Motherwell: Hollis, Read, Francis-Angol, Lasley, Huchinson, McManus, Ainsworth, Leitch, McFadden, Sutton, Vigurs.

Hearts: MacDonald, McGowan, McHattie, Robinson, McKay, Wilson, Stevenson, Hamill, Paterson, McCallum, Nicholson.

Referee: John Beaton

Att: 4,914

Top Man: Jamie MacDonald

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Brian Taylor's Big Debate – EdinburghReportage – Power of Ten exhibition – YouTube – Green Transport advice

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF BRIAN TAYLOR'S BIG DEBATE IN EDINBURGH?

WHERE: The Hub, 348-350 Castlehill, Edinburgh, EH1 2NE

WHEN: Friday 14 March 2014

TIMES: Doors open at the venue at **11:00am** the show is on air from **12pm – 1pm**

HOW TO APPLY? Book online: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-15190428>

Every week the programme visits a different part of Scotland with BBC Scotland's Political Editor Brian Taylor. Brian chairs a panel of four speakers from the world of Politics, Arts, Science, Business and other areas of public life and

ONLY the audience can ask them questions.

We look for questions on the most stimulating moral, political and social issues of the day – the current issues that will get people talking. So the programme gives YOU the opportunity to challenge politicians, policy makers, writers and thinkers.

Questions should as be brief and to the point as possible and about something that's been reported in the news in the week leading up to the debate. As the programme broadcasts to a Scotland wide audience, we look for issues that raise matters of genuine national and international interest and remember to keep an eye on the newspapers. Once you know what you want to ask, email your question to us at brian@bbc.co.uk by 4pmThursday 13th March. Please be aware we're not able to guarantee that all questions will be used.

Our sister site EdinburghReportage has a new storyboard waiting for your text, photos or video. It is all about Edinburgh's clocks. Where is your favourite?

[Add your content to our user generated sister site over here.](#)

We will highlight the best!

The man who gave his name to Edinburgh Napier University, mathematician John Napier, was born in 1550 in Merchiston Tower, the historic site now an integral part of our Merchiston campus. The life and work of the mathematical genius is now to be celebrated in a new exhibition 'Power of Ten', which opens at [National Museums Scotland](#) on Friday 28 March 2014..

The Scottish Parliament [has its own YouTube channel](#) so that

you can watch the proceedings there again and again if you like.

So if you can't make it along to Holyrood on Thursdays, then either you can watch First Minister's Questions in full or indeed some of the other lesser known committees, all working with cross party membership to discuss legislation in detail before it is passed.

You may have other favourite YouTube channels so do tell us about them in the Comments section below. [We quite like this one...](#)

Changeworks is the organisation which wants you to take steps to reduce your carbon footprint. They have a great deal of advice about various ways to save energy. [Click here](#) for their transport advice.

Rugby – Edinburgh Rugby v Neath-Swansea Ospreys

Hard fought win for Edinburgh at Meggetland



Edinburgh Rugby moved their home match against Neath-Swansea Ospreys to Boroughmuir's ground at Meggetland for Friday night's RaboDirect fixture. With the Murrayfield turf still somewhat delicate, the move would help preserve the pitch for the forthcoming International against France. And it seemed to be the right move as Edinburgh beat a strong Ospreys side to take only their sixth win in the league.

The Ospreys started well with an early try from wing, Jeff Hassler, following a cross-field passing move. Justin Tipperic was the feed for Hassler, passing the ball to the No. 14 from a tackle to send his man across the line. Dan Biggar missed the kick, but the visitors were 5-0 ahead. A few minutes on, Edinburgh secured possession just outside the Ospreys 22 and developed a strong rolling maul which twisted and turned its way deep into the 22. Just as it was about to break up, scrum half, Grayson Hart, took charge of the ball and broke through the defence to dive over behind the posts for a try. Carl Bezuidenhout kicked the easy conversion to take the lead and followed this up with a penalty a few minutes later to put Edinburgh 10-5 ahead.

Now with their tails up, it wasn't long before the hosts were on the scoreboard again. Jack Cuthbert collected a Biggar clearance, and set off upfield. He broke through a couple of tackles before he sent a neat pass between two Ospreys' players out to Sam Beard on the wing who had a fairly clear romp through to score in the corner for Edinburgh. Bezuidenhout missed the kick from wide, but the score was 15-5 to Edinburgh. This was 'altered' to 15-8 when a penalty – and a sin-bin for Geoff Cross – gave Biggar a successful shot at goal. With a man down, and just over five minutes until the break, Edinburgh launched another assault on the Osprey's defence. Again, the forwards were involved, this time setting up a ruck just a few metres out from the line. Hart received the ball and feinted to the right before going left and down the touchline for Edinburgh's third try. With Bezuidenhout's successful kick, Edinburgh were in a commanding 22-8 lead. This was reduced just before the whistle by another Biggar penalty, but the half finished with the hosts ahead 22-11.



The first 20 minutes or so of the second half were played very much in the centre of the field, with neither side making much in the way of a breakthrough. Scores did come, however, with Biggar 'netting' another two penalty kicks and Bezuidenhout knocking one over for Edinburgh to bring the score up to 25-17. And then....

And then, with the match being played in Edinburgh's 22 and Ospreys in

possession, a lack of penetration from the visitors lead to Biggar taking the chance on a grubber kick in behind the defence. With Hassler in full flight, he just beat the defender to the ball – confirmed by the TMO – for Osprey's second try. Biggar missed the kick but the score was a worryingly close 25-22. With 15 minutes of play left, Edinburgh used the time to up their score by another two penalties to 31-22. They almost went over for a try, but a bit of foul play from Osprey's earned them a yellow card and gave Bezuidenhout one of his kicks from close range. However, another yellow for Edinburgh, this time Ollie Atkins, gave Biggar the opportunity to take Ospreys to within a converted try, by scoring yet another penalty, but the hosts held on in the final few minutes for their 31-25 win.

It was looking good at half time for the home side, but a lack of discipline at the breakdown gave away far too many penalties, and, facing a kicker as good as Dan Biggar, it's not a situation that should be 'encouraged'. Still, it was a very good performance from Edinburgh, with some of their 'lesser lights' stepping up to the plate and making selection a bit more difficult for Solomons when the Internationalists return in a couple of weeks.

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

The Edinburgh Reporter meets.....THE FONZ



Happy Days are here again or rather will be here in May when the tour based on the hit TV series of the 70s featuring the unforgettable King of Cool Arthur 'The Fonz' Fonzerelli, the

Cunninghams and the rest of the gang including Pinky Tuscadero, Potsie, Ralph Malph, Joanie and Chachi battle to save their beloved Arnold's Diner from demolition at the King's Theatre.

Written by Garry Marshall, the show includes 21 original songs by Oscar, Grammy and Golden Globe award winning Hall of Fame songwriter Paul Williams plus of course the much loved Happy Days theme song.

Yesterday the Edinburgh Reporter joined a specially invited audience at the refurbished King's to view the launch of the show.

Several of the cast took part in a question and answer session compered by Chief Executive of the Festival City Theatres Trust Duncan Hendry including producer Amy Anzel who explained to the audience how the tour was organised and how she ambushed Henry Winkler live in Chanel 4 and 'persuaded' him to lend his support.

Former Emmerdale star Ben Freeman who plays the Fonz then performed 'Snap', the opening song before former Sugarbabe and Atomic Kitten Heidi Range who plays Pinky Tuscadero sang 'Legend in Leather.'

The group were then joined on stage by the legendry Cheryl Baker of Buck's Fizz fame and Emma Harold and the three ladies performed 'What I dreamed last night,' culminating with Cheryl ripping her skirt off just as she did in 'Making your mind up' all those years ago to the delight of the audience who roared their approval.

Ben and the girls then insisted that Edinburgh will be the highlight of the tour with Heidi in particular looking forward to checking out the sights with her Pug Betty, whilst Cheryl will be bringing her family up for the week.

Afterwards Ben Freeman aka Arthur 'The Fonz' Fonzerelli spoke

to the Edinburgh Reporter about the show. He said: "I was very much aware of Happy Days; I used to watch the reruns when I was growing up on Fridays and Saturday nights. It was a great escape from my life at the time.

"It's a really wonderful show that has stood the test of time and people still talk about it now and that's the beauty of it is and specifically the part of the Fonz.

"People who have never seen Happy Days know about the Fonz who is synonymous with the word 'cool' and even now kids to the thumbs up and say 'Heyyyyy' and they probably don't know where that has come from but it has filtered through four or five generations.

"It's so iconic and what he stood for which is being comfortable within yourself and being confident with a high moral standing and having values.

"What I really liked about the Fonz was, Yes the women loved him and used to swoon around him and with a click of his fingers they would come running and I suppose that could be seen as slightly chauvinistic in this day and age but the fact is that he was always incredibly respectful around people. He always called Mrs Cunningham Mrs Cunningham and he was very very polite to her. She was like a mother to him and he had a lot of time for her and listened to her advice, and he is a really good role model actually and the more I looked into him, the more I realised that and I just love the character and feel honoured to play him on stage."

[listen to 'The Fonz' on Audioboo](#)

Although Ben wasn't around when the show was at it's peak in the seventies, he has had some expert advice from the great man himself. He continued: "I had lots of advice from Henry (Winkler). He's a really lovely man and I have his phone number and feel very honoured to have had lots of one to one acting sessions with him and who better to have a workshop

with than the guy that created the Fonz?

“He actually created the character from scratch, it was his idea. Every little thing that he used to do such as the jacket, the thumbs up, never actually brushing his hair. He never combed it once, he would go to comb it and then go ‘as if? it’s already perfect.’ It’s so clever what he did and that’s why it has stood the test of time. There was a lot of thought went into that character and it went against a lot of standards at that time.

“The main advice he gave me was to play the truth and play the drama. Don’t just assume that the character is based on gimmicky things because it’s not. There is a reason behind all of those things and he told me they didn’t give him many words to say as he was dyslexic and couldn’t read the scripts.

“He was never a character that played for laughs. He was naturally funny because he was quite geeky but he was confident in himself and to him he was deadly serious when he was doing it. There was an episode when he sung and he played it with such honest and integrity that it was funny because of that and I think that is important.”

The show is currently playing in Glasgow but returns back north of the Border between Monday 12th and Saturday 17th May at Edinburgh’s King’s Theatre, something that Ben and the cast are all looking forward to.

He said: “I’ve done a couple of shows up on Scotland and I’ve always looked forward to coming here because the audiences are so receptive and lovely and they really love shows and love musicals and really support them. I’ve done Dreamboats and Petticoats at the Playhouse during the Festival. This tour does Glasgow Edinburgh and Aberdeen which is great.

“This show contains all new songs which are written by Paul Williams who wrote a lot of the songs back in the sixties. The

Happy Days song does feature as well but cleverly at the end and also in the score as well.

“They are brilliant well crafted pop songs and once the show has been running a bit longer they will get better known and stick in your head.

“The show is based around Arnold’s Diner which we all love and it comes under threat but there are many other side plots.

“The audiences are mainly 40s and upwards although we do see a lot of wide eyed teenagers in the front row and they absolutely love it.”

Anyone looking to go to this hilarious feel-good musical which is guaranteed to have you ‘rocking and rolling all week long’ should book early to avoid disappointment.

Premier seats from £34.50 – £31.50. General tickets £32.50 – £18

Friends 2 for 1 Opening Night or 20% off other performances.

Three in hospital after Elbe Street chip pan fire



A man, a woman and a young child were taken to hospital this morning following a chip pan fire in Elbe Street this morning.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Watch Manager Stuart Sinclair, the incident commander, said: “A fire in an unattended chip pan had caused a large amount of smoke to fill

the kitchen and other parts of the flat.

“Firefighters in breathing apparatus quickly put out the flames using a fire blanket and fire-fighting hose reel and our crews provided oxygen therapy to the woman and the child who had suffered smoke inhalation and to the man who had suffered smoke inhalation and burns.

“Thankfully this home was protected by a working smoke alarm and the residents of the flat were able to get out. A neighbour, on hearing the alarm, called 999.”

After receiving treatment by firefighters at the scene, the occupants were assessed by ambulance staff before being taken to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary for further treatment.

The SFRS advises members of the public that traditional chip pans are known to be a fire risk and urge anyone who still uses one to consider switching to a modern electric fryer, which will have a safety switch to prevent it overheating.

If you're tired, have been drinking, or taking drugs, don't cook. You will be less alert to the signs of fire, and more likely to fall asleep.

Firefighters are also clear that working smoke alarms save lives and buy time for crews to tackle fires before heat, smoke and flames can spread throughout a home.

People have also been asked to consider fitting a heat alarm within the kitchen – the room where most house fires start.

Free home fire safety visits only take around half an hour. A key part of the Join Scotland's Fight Against Fire campaign, they have proven immensely popular with more than 56,000 completed across the country last year.

Anyone who thinks they or someone they know – like an elderly relative, friend or neighbour – could benefit from the expert advice of firefighters from their own community should call

0800 0731 999 or text 'check' to 61611.

People can also fill out a form at <http://www.firescotland.gov.uk> or contact their local community fire station.

Choir to perform in Newbattle Abbey for charity



A choir is set to perform fundraising concert at Newbattle Abbey

Local choir group Cantiamo are set to perform a fundraising concert at Newbattle Abbey on Thursday, 13 March. The event, which starts at 7:00pm, is being held to raise funds for Newbattle Abbey Crescent Residents' Association and for the Abbey.

Cantiamo is a mixed-voice singing group comprised of singers from Midlothian and Edinburgh. They perform concerts in the local area to raise money for good causes such as Marie Curie, Cancer Research and local church development funds, as well as providing a musical background for weddings and corporate events.

Margaret Cameron, who is a member of Cantiamo, said:- "We've known each other for about 20 years and all sing in the choir because we really enjoy doing it. We raise money for good causes whilst being sociable and meeting other community groups."

Margaret added: "We're looking forward to performing at Newbattle Abbey again as it is a lovely venue and we will be singing in the Drawing Room. The proceeds from this concert will be donated to Newbattle Abbey Crescent Residents' Association to help them fund events for the local community throughout the year and we will also be helping the Abbey, who are so generous in supporting our local community."

Lucy Caldwell, Events Marketing Officer at Newbattle Abbey, says: "We are really looking forward to having Cantiamo here at Newbattle Abbey again. The group are all very talented and we are pleased to support them in their quest to raise funds for the Abbey and Newbattle Abbey Crescent Residents' Association."

Tickets for the event cost £5 and can be purchased in advance by emailing Margaret at margaret@iancameron3.plus.com

For more information, please visit www.cantiamo.org.uk or www.newbattleabbey.com

Terry Butcher apologises to Hibs' fans after United defeat



Terry Butcher apologised to Hibs' supporters after the 3-1 home defeat suffered at the hands of Dundee United and urged the team to bounce back against Motherwell at Easter Road next Saturday (8 March, kick off 3pm).

Butcher told Hibernian TV: "It was a difficult night for us; there's no two ways about it. I apologise to the Hibs fans because it's unacceptable and it was not nice to watch.

"There were two things that went right for us tonight and that was the two missed penalties; it could have been a lot worse. We were well beaten by a much better team.

"When Dundee United are in that mood and with the way that they play, which we allowed them to do, then they can carve you open and they did that on many occasions.

"We got a lifeline at half-time and we said let us go out and play in the second half, let's get tighter to them and put them under more pressure.

"But their second goal was an absolute killer – we don't normally concede from corners.

"So we went down 2-1 and then possibly our best midfield player, Tom Taiwo gets sent off and that makes it really impossible after that. Then we concede the third goal and it could have been more after that.

"It was not pleasant, not good and not acceptable, but we have to come back here in eight days' time for another one. I don't think it's about playing at Easter Road.

"We were up against a good team tonight and that was always going to be a big challenge for us because Dundee United are a team, who are bang in form.

"So it was always going to be a big challenge for us but we didn't rise to that challenge, nowhere near it.

"Too many players sat off and too many players were not comfortable on the ball. The difference between the two sides in their passing and movement was markedly different.

"I could argue or offer a line that Dundee United have played

together for sometime and know each other very well and we don't in terms of what we are trying to do. I wouldn't offer that as a feeble effort of an excuse. I don't want to offer any excuses tonight.

"We've got to be much better than that and we are much better than that. Defensively we have been far stronger in the past when we first came here.

"Now we seem weak and we're allowing easy goals, which is heartbreaking for me and for the Hibs support. We will work hard at that."

Photo by John Preece

<http://www.photoboxgallery.com/jlp-photography>

SNP Councillor resigns from party



Councillor Jim Orr is the Vice Convener of Transport and Environment and the city's cycling tsar – or he was until his resignation from the party whip on Friday morning.

This means that he does not form part of the capital coalition running the council. He has expressed his sadness at taking this decision but has copied The Edinburgh Reporter on the email which he sent to colleagues explaining the reasons for his decision. Councillor Orr who represents the Southside/Newington Ward told us:-"In short, it didn't work out. Unfortunately, this also means that I'm no longer an SNP member for the first time in my adult life. But things move on

and tomorrow is a new day. Reluctantly, I'm an independent Edinburgh councillor now."

The council website has not yet been changed to reflect this change in status, but no doubt will be over the coming days.

This is a copy of the email Councillor Orr sent to the SNP Group whose numbers are now reduced to 17 of the 58 elected members:-

Colleagues

I have just spoken to the group leader and whip to inform them of a decision I took early this week but after long consideration. It has become clear to us all that, for whatever reason, both Transport and Environment matters in general, and me personally in particular, have been connected to far too many internal spats over the last two years. It has become an ongoing distraction which has diminished the group's effectiveness. I'm writing to inform you that I'm taking the first step in dealing with this by resigning the whip in the hope that the group will now be able to focus 100% on tackling the many challenges facing the city, and set out its vision with a renewed sense of purpose. The SNP have an excellent team in Edinburgh and are trusted by the people and I am hopefully that my actions will not affect this trust. The capital coalition's majority remains substantial and should be unaffected.

This email constitutes my formal resignation. Party representatives and my local MSPs will be informed when I forward them this email. I'll also inform my local branch very soon and write to key officers, capital coalition councillors and the media team.

I sincerely hope that any media interest is minimal, and that everyone accepts that the situation has just not worked out. I have little more to add for the time being. If group members wish to comment to the media on the subject of my resignation then I'd prefer that comments be made "on the record", as I always do, as this is much more open and constructive. It's a matter for regret but tomorrow is a new day.

This decision means that I am no longer a member of any political party. That's unfortunate but life goes on. I'll work out my next step in due course, but I have absolutely no interest in joining or being affiliated to any rival party and I don't see the need for a by-election any time soon either. So I guess that means I'm now an independent councillor. Of course I will still be heavily involved in the exciting constitutional debate, and on the same side as I have been for more than two decades.

There are plenty of talented councillors in the group who could succeed me as Transport and Environment Vice Convener. I hope that whoever is chosen is able to retain and take forward my most important delegated responsibilities which are those relating to sustainability. These policies are at a very exciting stage, and on a firm foundation, but now need intelligent and thoughtful political leadership.

I have many friends in the group and I am sure these friendships will continue.

Regards


Jim

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Morningside Community Council – Craighouse Public Hearing – Hidden Door Festival – Dugs n Pubs – Borders Railway Fund

The next meeting of the Morningside Community Council is to be held on 19 March 2014 at 7.30pm at The Open Door 420 Morningside Road.

 The council have set a public hearing date for the Craighouse Planning Application on **17th March 2014**. More details on the council website.

More about the Hidden Door Festival which takes place at the end of the month.

“The Hidden Door Festival will create an incredible experience of the arts for the audience. From 28th March until 5th April 2014 some of the most promising breakthrough creative talent from across Scotland will radically transform Market Street in Edinburgh, and its 24 disused vaults, into a single-site urban arts festival for 5,000 members of the public to enjoy over the course of 9 days. They will immerse themselves in live music, art installations, film screenings, theatre and spoken word events, whilst enjoying high quality refreshment – turning this quiet back street just off the Royal Mile into the only place to be in the capital.”

[Tickets available here.](#)

Wondering where to go for a drink with your dogs? Wonder no more. [On the Dugs n Pubs website](#) there is a comprehensive list of all the pubs in Edinburgh which welcome dogs. Just keep them off the Guinness....

LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS TO BENEFIT FROM BORDERS RAILWAY FUND

▪ Third round of applications now open!

Local charities and community organisations in Edinburgh can now apply for a share of a £2,500 community fund being offered once again by the Borders Railway project and the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN).

This is the third time that the grants have been made available to organisations located in communities alongside the new railway line; 22 local projects benefited from the fund last year.

Those applying can benefit from up to £250 for projects which encourage railway, site or road safety, discourage theft and vandalism or engage with the local community.

Previous beneficiaries include Stow Primary School, which plans to build a temporary educational building in the form of a traditional yurt and the Y2K Bike Project in Midlothian which has delivered bike safety workshops. Funds have also contributed towards the Scottish Border Council's Inspire Awards which acknowledge the achievements and successes of young people aged 12-25 years living in the region.

Craig Bowman, Senior Communications Manager for the Borders Railway project, said:-"The Borders Railway will have positive

benefits for many communities along the route but we're also aware that there will be some people about potential safety risks. By funding these projects, we're going some way towards spreading railway safety messages and leaving a positive legacy from project construction.

"We have been really impressed by the diversity of the projects which have benefited previously and we are looking forward to helping support even more local projects throughout this year."

The aim of the grant scheme is to engage with communities which are located near the new railway and to increase awareness of rail safety.

Mrs Marshall, head teacher of Newtongrange Primary School, which benefited from the community fund last year, said: "The community fund helped supplement existing funding to allow us to improve road and cycle safety around the school. We are all looking forward to using the railway once completed and the fund has been a great way to teach our pupils about railway safety. We encourage others to apply!"

Jacqui Doig, Scottish Community Safety Network Manager, said: "It has been very enjoyable to witness the progress of last year's projects. They have provided lots of opportunities for the community to come together and learn more about the Borders Railway. We wish applicants the very best of luck."

Projects can apply for up to £250.00. Applications must be submitted before Friday 14th March 2014. For more information on the grant please contact info@scsn.org.uk

Hibernian 1-3 Dundee United: Top six aim suffers setback



Hibs' hopes of making the top six took a knock tonight and once again some questionable refereeing decisions sparked fury amongst the supporters although few would argue that Dundee United fully deserved the three points at Easter Road.

In fact the 3-1 scoreline flattered Hibs as United missed two penalty kicks and a number of good chances in a game that they dominated throughout.

Earlier in the day, the club announced their season ticket package for the next campaign however the performance against Jackie McNamara's side is unlikely to persuade any undecided fans to part with their money.

Manager Terry Butcher made one change from the side that drew at Rugby Park last weekend with skipper Liam Craig restored to the starting line-up at the expense of youngster Daniel Handling, freeing Sam Stanton to play a more forward role.

Hibs started brightly and were almost gifted a goal when Cierzniak made a mess of punching clear Alex Harris corner kick and the ball against Paul Hanlon but flew past the post.

In the 21st minute, United were awarded a controversial penalty kick after Ryan Dow collided with Hanlon outside of the penalty area.

After consulting his linesman referee Euan Norris infuriated the Hibs supporters by pointing to the spot. Ryan McGivern was

booked for arguing with the officials, but justice was done when Ciftci's side footed effort was comfortably saved by Ben Williams.

The Hibs' keeper was called into action again when he produced an acrobatic save from a Ciftci header before United took the lead in the 42nd minute.

Ciftci outmuscled Paul Hanlon inside the box then sidestepped past Michael Nelson before slotting the ball past Williams.

Just before the break, Hibs grabbed an equaliser when Cierzniak made a mess of punching clear Harris' corner kick and Jordon Forster headed the ball into the empty net.

Ten minutes into the second half, the Arabs regained the lead when Gavin Gunning out jumped Nelson to head the ball into net from Mackay-Steven's corner.

Three minutes later the visitors were awarded their second spot kick of the evening when Nelson brought down Gunning inside the box.

Mackay-Steven took responsibility but blasted the ball high over the crossbar.

Hanlon then had to leave the field after suffering double vision following a knock and with 18 minutes remaining, Hibs' chances deteriorated when Tom Taiwo was shown a second yellow card following a mistimes tackle.

Dundee United substitute El Alagui added a third when he beat Daniel Boateng to the ball and swept Andrew Robertson's low cross in at the near post.

Sam Stanton struck the outside junction of post and bar with a well taken free kick near the end but United easily held on to secure all three points.

Hibs: Williams, McGivern, Hanlon (Boateng 69'), Nelson,

Harris, Craig (Handling 60'), Stevenson, Taiwo, Forster, Stanton, Haynes (Collins 79'). Substitutes not used: Murdoch, Cairney, Maybury, Cummings.

Dundee United: Cierzniak, Watson, Good, Gunning, Paton, Rankin, Dow, Robertson, Armstrong (El Alagui 79'), Mackay-Steven (Gomis 89'), Ciftci (Graham 79'). Substitutes not used: McCallum, Wilson, Dillon, Connolly.

Referee: Euan Norris.

Photo by John Preece

<http://www.photoboxgallery.com/jlp-photography>

REVIEW – Bastille at Edinburgh Corn Exchange



It was only a year ago Bastille were playing Liquid Room which sold out on the day of the gig. A year on and they've managed to shift onto more substantial venues. The transition from studio to live is tremendous as they sound as if they have just pressed play, but less impressive is the commercial hype that surrounds them – they are basically dedicated towards one target group who dominated the front of the house on the night. For a band that has a great sense of potential this is a pity.

A 'sold out' Corn Exchange didn't exactly appear a sell out with the rear right-hand side of the room looking fairly vacant. Nevertheless, a youthful crowd packed themselves right up to the front, screaming at anything lead singer Dan Smith

said while the more mature members of the audience dotted the back of the venue discussing what they are doing at the weekend during the slow songs.

Title track 'Bad Blood' began proceedings with what appeared to be a tame crowd. Dan Smith and Co. then moved up the gears a little bit and followed it with a hit 'Weight of Living, Pt. II' which throttled the crowd into elation. The lead singer's ecstatic energy was praiseworthy as he attempted to take the fans with him, sometimes unsuccessfully. The crowd were essentially a roller coaster but it seemed that they were just there to listen to the hits.

Those other hits including 'Icarus', 'Of The Night', 'Things We Lost In The Fire', 'Flaws', and 'Pompeii' all received appreciative responses from the audience. Whenever an unfamiliar or quiet number like 'Overjoyed' arrived, it flattened – which is rather sad to see.

In my view, after a handful of songs, Smith's voice became monotone and the screeching of fans was by then overwhelming. He's a captivating frontman who grabs the attention of the audience, so this is a little disappointing.

Bastille still need to do more – they should be playing arenas, they need global success, and ought to be remembered for their songs. Somehow, I don't think that is happening right now.

Their sound is a bit confused, and with the talent they have, they could create something really wonderful. It is all Radio 1 filling blandness at present. The band are clearly talented enough to provide a lot more, but maybe they have to go away and dream it all up again.