



**TEAM 4 IN GREAT FORM**



**A GREAT NIGHT WITH OUR FRIENDS FROM GERMANY**



**WHO'S A PROUD MUM THEN?**

# HALF TIME REPORT - JAN 2016

So the 2015/16 season has reached it's mid-way point and it's been a very busy three / four months for the Club with a record number of 8 Teams competing in the ELTTL, covering all five divisions in the League.

In the Premier Division, newbie Stuart Gow has fitted in well to the Team - opponents used to think I was difficult to get on with but now with Colin and Stuart as Teammates I've become the most easy going personality in Team 1!! Like Iain before him, Stuart has managed not to fall out with Colin, a feat only achieved by two players in Team 1's history - in fairness, due to injury, Colin hasn't played much this year so maybe the second half of the season will be a sterner test for the pair of them! The 1st Team have had an up and down season but sit comfortably in mid table with ten points. There was a time when the title looked like a possibility though - see below!

## League Table

Premier	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.	Conc.
<a href="#">Penicuik I</a>	1	1	0	0	7	3	2	0
<a href="#">Edinburgh International II</a>	1	1	0	0	6	4	2	0
<a href="#">North Merchiston II</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<a href="#">Edinburgh University I</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<a href="#">Murrayfield I</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<a href="#">Murrayfield IV</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<a href="#">Edinburgh Sports Club I</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<a href="#">Murrayfield II</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<a href="#">West Lothian I</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<a href="#">North Merchiston I</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<a href="#">Murrayfield III</a>	1	0	0	1	4	6	0	0
<a href="#">Edinburgh International I</a>	1	0	0	1	3	7	0	0

Our two teams in Division 1 have found life hard going. The first controversy of the season unbelievably involved James (Mr Nice) Wighton. It appears that although James is our most accommodating team captain that's only to non-Penicuik teams as he forced Team 3 to play whilst Clive was on holiday! Good job he did though as the point gained in that match was Team 2's only point until well into the meat of the season - there are some positive signs however, with Gary's play in particular improving as he comes to terms with the jump up to Division 1. Improvement all-round is needed as Team 2 sit only two points clear of the relegation zone - maybe Mr Nice has to show us his nasty side!!

Team 3 were boosted by the inclusion of Iain Johnstone and he has by far been Penicuik's best player in Division 1 - 25% ahead of any of the other five. Without him, Team 3 would probably be battling with their Clubmates at the foot of the table. The story of the first half, however, has not been Iain's 80% but Brian's transformation from being the Captain most Disliked by opponents to the new approachable and sporting Brian - everyone at the Club has always known what a softy he is at heart (really!!) but the other teams in the league must be thinking there's some ulterior motive - in fact let's be honest we're all thinking the same! The only thing it could be is Brian's quest to gain one vote for player of the match having gone through the past 35 seasons without such recognition!

Into Division 2 and our 4th Team have been the surprise package of the season so far. Boosted by the arrival of Chris Markey they have had an excellent run of form and finish the first half of the season unbeaten with 8 wins and 3 draws. Tony, Chris and Mr Scrabble Man (who doubted that he could perform at this level - not me - it was Clive who said he shouldn't be registered in Division 2!) all get into the top 10 in the individual averages whilst Team Captain Gavin has picked up some important wins when it's been needed. Hot on their heels going into the New Year, however, are Murrayfield 5 only a point behind. Looks like being a tight fight to the finish between those two.

The Club's 5th Team have had a very balanced looking first half of the season in Division 3 - five wins, one draw and five defeats. Team Captain John Bald (reigning Penicuik Handicap Champion - why does he constantly remind me of that fact!!) is joined this year by Phil Daly, Gregory Leplatre and newbie Martyn Levy. Two controversial things about this team - Gregory who is one of the most stylish players at the club (French of course so we shouldn't be surprised) loses some amazingly bad matches!! He's got a great forehand, lovely stylish backhand, great movement, he's fit and healthy looking and is brilliant at multi-ball and yet he's only on 70% in Division 3 - who can explain that?? Obviously 70% is still very good (certainly compared to his teammates!) but maybe it's his french laid back attitude that causes him to fall asleep sometimes at the table that needs addressing in the second half! Then there's Phil - controversial character who cannot wear a short sleeved shirt - not sure if there is diagnosed phobia for that - no doubt Phil will have a word for it - just look at the various Facebook names he's used this season - currently Sirwalking Sidestep - Eh?? New Club shirts and he needs one made with long sleeves or one that he can wear on top of his long sleeved tops!!

Is anyone still reading? Into Division 4 where we have three teams competing. People have criticised me for not covering these teams enough in previous President's Reports - that's just unfair.

Anyway, away from the League, our continued thanks go to Tom for all his hard work with the youngsters and for his mentoring of Team 6 in the League.

In the Handicap Cup, those stalwarts of Iain and Abby have again progressed to the last 8 under the guidance of El Presidente. We could have had two teams in the last 8 but Brian has forbidden me from mentioning what happened in the last round to his team!!

A couple of other things to report - There was a great night spent with our friends from Oberbruch in October - we will have to visit them at some point - can you imagine Iain how much beer you could drink on that trip??!!

The Edinburgh Championships were held at Royal High this year and there was success for the Club with 5 medals, making Penicuik the 2nd most successful Club at the Tournament. The

performance of the day came from Louis Myatt who turned the tables on Luke Hennessy to gain the Club's only winners medal. Congratulations to all who took part.

And finally, positive news for the Club with our new sponsorship deal with Saltire Roofing and Building Ltd. The deal secures sponsorship for us for the next three seasons and we are extremely grateful to the Company for their support - our new Club shirts are in place for the second half of the season and the final controversy of the year was in relation to the design - Clive for some reason campaigned fiercely against having the Company's logo appear on the shirts - in this world of political correctness I'll say no more!!



Ok a quick mention of our three Division 4 teams - Luke has been the standout player with a 76% average in the Division but also worthy of note is our most improved player of the year (according to Ratings Central), Millie Bennett. It's great to see so many players taking part - many of whom tasting their first season of league play (Stuart G, Stuart B, Craig, Sean, Millie, Martyn); the list goes on - well it doesn't actually but sounds good to say that.

So there we have it - 2015 all over - I wish everyone all the best for 2016 and my New Years Resolution is to somehow find a way to give Colin the Player of the Week Award at some point in the season - maybe I should set my sights lower and try to bring peace to all mankind!!

El Presidente