



**THE BIG MATCH AS 2ND
TEAM PLAY 3RD TEAM
DECEMBER 2014**



**IS THIS THE CLUB'S
NEW MACHO MAN?**



**NO LONGER THE 100% MAN
BUT STILL PLAYER OF THE
YEAR??**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

For those new to the Club or new on the email circulation list you've missed numerous excellent President's Reports over the Years. For those used to my festive summary, you may find this less sarcastic, I mean less witty, than previous Reports, given we have a number of junior members now! You'll all be glad to know this is also shorter than previous Reports given the weekly reports on the website which are read religiously by at least one person - Thanks to Jan in Australia for making me feel worthwhile!

So the new season has reached it's mid-way point and it's been a good first half for all of our five Teams in the League.

In the Premier Division, new boy Iain Johnstone has fitted in well to the Team - he too ignores Colin's words of wisdom in the car, has managed to laugh at all my jokes, has remarkably not yet fallen out with Mr Grumpy - although in fairness some credit for that must go to Colin for being less hostile than normal, and has won a few important games - what more could we have hoped for! A strong finish to the first half sees the 1st Team sitting in 6th place in the League.

Our two teams in Division 2 have been battling hard for bragging rights over each other and the 3rd Team own those rights at the mid-way point as they sit at the summit of the Division with a brilliant 19 points from a possible 20, 3 clear of the 2nd Team in second place. The crucial match was of course when the teams met earlier this month and a terrific 6-4 win for the 3rd Team ensured top spot in the Division. Individually, Clive, who has only lost two league matches (to Gary and James), remains at the top of the individual averages with 92%. What tricks will the auld yins have up their sleeve for the 2nd half of the season? Someone suggested Brian had something to do with James' recent injury - surely there's no truth in that??

Into Division 3 and our 4th Team have had an excellent run of form winning their last 5 matches which has resulted in them surging up the table to finish the first half of the season equal on points with Corstorphine 6 in 3rd place. Although Fife look clear at the top, some 5 points ahead, the fourth team are only 2 points off 2nd placed West Lothian who they play first up in the New Year. A win there and a play off place looks up for grabs. Individually, Tony Brentnall, new to the Club this year, has been the star performer so far with an 89% win rate. Macho man, pictured at the top of the report, wins the award for scrabble name of the year - I've had to add it to my auto-text which saves me at least half an hour each week trying to remember that he's seemingly got 12 z's in his name! Ale burak! No idea what that means but someone on our Xmas night out told me it was amusing!!

The Club's new 5th Team have found it tough going in Division 4 of the League but that was to be expected and hopefully the second half of the season will see improvements in the performances of the youngsters (and the not so young Rachel!) as they continue with their first experience of competitive League Action. Special mention to two of the Team, Luke Hennessey and Louis Myatt who both performed well at the recent Edinburgh Championships in winning the Band 4 singles and the Under 11 events respectively.

As always a huge thanks to Tom for all his work with the youngsters and not forgetting Iain for all his..... - what does he actually do on a Saturday morning???

In the Handicap Cup, two of our 3 teams have progressed to the last 8 stage, the performances of the season surely coming from the Defending Champions of El Presidente, Iain and Abby with two emphatic 5-0 wins - I don't think Abby's even broken sweat yet!!

A couple of other new things to report - In relation to the League, this year has seen the introduction of the new "Ratings Central" System to gauge a player's playing strength - the most accurate ratings system in the world is it's claim. I think I agree - a quick check today shows me in my rightful place as Penicuik's number 1 - couldn't be more accurate if it tried!!

Rank	Rating	Name
1	1363±36	McDonell, Greig
2	1347±37	Green, Colin
3	1168±38	Johnstone, Iain
4	1023±45	Liddiard, Clive
5	968±40	McDougal, Gary
6	930±37	Wighton, James
7	914±38	Bailey, Brian
8	884±43	Brentnall, Tony
9	868±33	Wighton, Abby

Also new this year is a fantastic Website - thanks to the Club's IT Consultant for that. Weekly reports are put on the Website and so far the Club has also had great coverage in the Midlothian Advertiser. You know there's not much happening in Midlothian when they've got enough space for lengthy reports of League matches and they publish pictures as well! If El Presidente continues to perform well the Club's Press Officer will have a lot to write about in the second half of the season!

Did I say this was going to be shorter than normal?? Away from the League, there's not much to report - is anyone other than Jan still reading?

The League Championships were again held at Ladywood this year and while there isn't enough space to do a full Report here there was great success for the Club who picked up 9 medals, five winners and four runners-up, to make Penicuik the most successful Club at the Tournament. The full report will be on the Website shortly. Suffice to say the performance of the day must have come in the Over 40's event when..... OK I'll leave the Press Officer to decide on that issue and to include it in the first Advertiser article of the New Year. Congratulations to all who took part in what was an excellent day.



So there we have it - 2014 all but over - I wish everyone all the best for the New Year and my New Years Resolution (and I mean it this time!) is to get into my new Babu G sponsored t-shirt by the end of the season - I knew I should have gone for 5XL!