

# CBC News

[www.corstorphinebowlingclub.co.uk](http://www.corstorphinebowlingclub.co.uk)

## November / December 2016

Dear Member,

It was with great sadness that I heard of the passing of Alister Paterson on 7<sup>th</sup> December. I have known Alister for 46 years since he employed me in the fledgling Bank of Scotland Computer Services in 1970 when we needed Computers the size of the Bowling Green to generate a fraction of the power found in the modern day mobile phones. They were fun days with Alister at the forefront making people feel welcome and part of the Team. His main passions in those days was Bank of Scotland and Rugby, both Corstorphine Rugby Club and the National Team. He spent a lot of time promoting the sport within the Bank and indeed organised sponsorship for a number of events. He became President of Corstorphine Rugby Club (twice I think) and followed the Club all over the UK where he made many lasting friends such as his nature of embracing people. There are many stories of his Rugby adventures but if you have ever been involved with a Rugby Club you will understand why I can't print them here!

Alister was also heavily involved in the Bank of Scotland Bowling section and everywhere you went everyone knew him and he made them all welcome. Alister became President of Corstorphine Bowling Club in 2004 and it was no surprise that the Edinburgh Bowling League made an approach to him. He joined their Committee and in 2009 was elected President and made a substantial contribution to that organisation. In 2016, he was made its first Honorary Member.

I could write pages about Alister but a couple of stories will perhaps show how much he enjoyed being a member of the Bowling Club. Together, with his dear friend Dougie Dewar now also sadly no longer with us he used the Gents Tours as a great bonding exercise, setting up "Kangaroo Courts" and fining the tourists for the daftest of things. It brought everyone together for hours of laughter, not only raising £100's for charity but also embracing new members into the heart of the Club. Again with Dougie, he set up our weekly Lotto, donating over £1,300 to the Club each year. Even latterly when he was gravely ill, he phoned me up worried that I may not have enough change for the Bar, another job he did every week. He loved Corstorphine Bowling Club. I will finish with a couple of quotes from the very moving tribute issued by the Edinburgh Bowling League last week.

*"He was a true gent, a man who is probably the most iconic figure in the EBL's 20 year history."*

*"Alister, you were a true gentleman. A man that the EBL owes a huge debt of gratitude to."*

*The word legend is over used but putting it in the same sentence as AP is more than Appropriate. We will endeavour to carry on the amazing work you did for bowls in Edinburgh."*

Alister's funeral will be private but will be followed by a service of Thanksgiving in Craigsbank Parish Church, Corstorphine at 1:15pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, and thereafter back to the Bowling Club to which all members are welcome. I am sure you will join me in offering our condolences to Alister's daughter Elizabeth and his great friend Ellen Hay.

You may remember that at the Presentation of Prizes night we presented Gordon Swann, Chairman of the Friends of Corstorphine Hill with a cheque for £1,250. We have received a letter from Gordon, thanking the Club for the generous donation and offering to run a series of guided walks for members around Corstorphine Hill showing us the work they do. So look out for more details about this in the New Year. Again, last month I mentioned the generosity of Ian Murdoch and Jimmy Vaughan in raising £200 if Jimmy stopped smoking for 6 months. Corstorphine Dementia Project have sent him a letter of thanks for the donation.

The Disco and Gin Tasting night on the 19<sup>th</sup> November was a great success and an increased variety of gins will now remain on permanent offer in the Club. Another favourable comment was that it was a pleasant change to listen to music while still having the opportunity to talk and dance throughout the evening. The Disco has been re-booked for February .

### **CBC – Corstorphine Bridge Club?**

A note from John McPhail - Our bowling club is once again in its dormant state, hibernating it seems until the winter chill is past and we once again sally forth to enjoy our all too short feast of bowling fun and challenges. Although there are monthly social events thanks to our excellent social committee and a number of other meetings and activities, the club is frequently unoccupied. Our committee would welcome any suggestions for filling in the gaps, but one suggestion is that we should partially *bridge* the

gap by starting our own bridge club. I have spoken to a number of people about this possibility and there does seem to be some support for the idea and it is a game that seems to be gaining in popularity. To gauge the strength of support within the club I would very much appreciate some feedback. So the question is, if we had a go at setting up a bridge club, would you be interested? If you would, please send me an email to [jandjmacp@gmail.com](mailto:jandjmacp@gmail.com). A simple "Yes I am interested." will suffice for now.

### **100 club news**

After a long stint at the helm, President Kenny has surrendered the reins of the 100 club and handed over to John MacPhail. The Lottery was started by Sandy Mackay in 1991 and Kenny has been looking after it for some 14 years. He has not made any club members millionaires in that time but he has seen £100+ handed out to club members on over 150 occasions and of course a similar amount going into club funds. Many thanks for your work Kenny. If you are interested in joining the 100 club please have a word with John at any time and he will be happy to sign you up. The cost is a mere £2 per month and this can be paid annually by direct debit or by cheque. Winners get half the proceeds for the month and the other half goes to club funds. Why not increase your chances by taking a second number or even taking one for your partner/spouse.

The lucky 100 club member in November was David Sutherland, a first time winner who pocketed £120 and another first time winner in December is Bill Cumming.

The recent frost was welcomed by our Green Ranger as the Green had just been spiked and it allows the frost to get deep down into the soil. You may also have seen some people measuring up the path areas around the Green. Mindful of the Safety of our members and conscious of the path breaking up in places, Bill Cumming has been obtaining estimates to provide a satisfactory surface for the next 20 years or so and it is just one item in a 5 year plan to maintain the fabric in and around the Club for our Members to enjoy.

There are two main areas of income for the Club, Members' annual fees and bar takings. Bar Takings for the financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> November was £6,000 down on 2015, so it's all the more important that we get more Members and their friends to use the facilities in the coming year if we wish to maintain the appearance of the Club and its surroundings.

This year the Bar will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, January 1<sup>st</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup> as it's unfair to ask Members to leave their families to staff an empty Club. However we will be open into the wee small hours overnight Hogmanay when we have a drinks licence until 2 a.m.

The 2017 AGM will take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February and notices for Committee are on the Notice Board.

Spray Chalk and "Grippe" are now available behind the bar at a cost of £3 & £5 respectively.

The Seniors Christmas lunch will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December – raffle prizes would be welcome.

### **On the Social Scene**

Sat.17th December - Christmas Cabaret with Robbie Curran. Raffle prizes gratefully received

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - Burns Supper

List will be up shortly. Tickets £18 payable in advance likely to sell out fast. Limited to first 72.

Saturday 25th February - By popular demand a return of the disco that went down so well in November.

Sat.18th March - 6 Nations Final

Come and watch the 3 games and have a pie with your beer.

Scotland v Italy 12.30

France v Wales 14.45

Ireland v England 17.00

Sat. 25th March - Get your stetson out and enjoy our homegrown talent entertaining us with an evening of Country & Western. If anyone would like to do a turn, contact Bill Cumming or John MacPhail.

**Congratulations** – to Richard Bryce and Iain Norton who have significant birthdays this month. (and of course the main man himself)

Have a very Merry Christmas

I'm always looking for articles or little stories to tell so please drop me a note anytime.

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