

## Edinburgh Sports Clubs

# Newsletter

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(Pictures kindly supplied by Ian Mackay, Edinburgh Evenings News)

# North Edinburgh Community Football Academy Opens

Following a unique partnership agreement involving City of Edinburgh Council, Spartans Football Club, sportscotland, Miller Homes, The Big Lottery, and several other key stakeholders the North Edinburgh Community Football Academy finally opened to the public on 5th December 2008.

Despite the initial restricted opening hours the Academy has already hosted dozens of football matches, a mini youth festival, regular training sessions for football teams and local children have also been provided with a free venue to come and play street football in a safe environment. And it is not just football that is benefiting from this excellent facility as the Scottish Rugby Under 20 squad are regularly training there.

This superb venue has a wide range of facilities that include:

- Stadium floodlit grass football pitch, with covered seating for 504 and an initial ground capacity of 2,400
- A large floodlit multi-sport synthetic UEFA 2 star+ pitch, housing 3 x 7-a-side football pitches

- A smaller floodlit multi-sport synthetic pitch ideal for 5-a-side football.
- An all weather basketball / netball court.
- 6 x team changing rooms plus 2 x officials changing rooms.
- Community Club Room (capacity 60+) with viewing balcony (for 30+ people).
- Learning Centre / Board Room (capacity 16 people).
- Office / Meeting Room (capacity 6-8 people).
- A Physiotherapy Centre / 1st Aid Room.
- A Cafe / Bar / Kitchen area.
- Coach Parking plus 52 car park spaces on site.

The facility will be managed by The Spartans Community Football Academy who are a registered company limited by guarantee. The Academy is also a registered charity and not for profit organisation whose vision is to provide the residents of North Edinburgh with a community inspired and managed facility, to help develop people of all ages sporting, social and life skills.

Underneath their vision and aspirations for the future sits a number of specific key social aims and objectives which will drive the organisation, namely:

- To provide new opportunities for more people to participate in sport and recreational activities.

- To provide learning and development opportunities for people.
- To have a positive impact on social targets such as health improvement, increased employment opportunities and crime reduction.
- To help strengthen community cohesion by becoming a focal point for a range of community based activities and programmes.

City of Edinburgh Council's Head of Sport & Physical Activity, Stephanie-Anne Harris said she "was delighted with the opening of the Academy and the positive impact this excellent new facility would have on the local community. This is a tremendous example of partnership working and hopefully the way ahead for the future."

Kenny Cameron, the Academy Community Programme Manager said "it's been an incredible start with over 500 young people playing for free after school hours and at weekends. In addition to this, we hosted the Active Futures Programme on Sunday 14th December, in advance of providing a new home for this established North Edinburgh community programme in 2009".

Looking ahead to 2009 Douglas Samuel, the Academy Development Manager said "customer feedback has been excellent. In 2009 we are looking forward to launching a wide range of community programmes on and off the park, which we hope will have a positive social impact on North Edinburgh as a whole."



# Strollers Knock up a Century



Last month one of Edinburgh oldest sports clubs celebrated their 100th anniversary. The Civil Service Strollers Football Club was founded in 1908, and has always been based in Edinburgh. The Club's first home ground was at Stenhouse Stadium, which later became a greyhound racing venue.

In the 1920's the Strollers moved to Pinkhill Park, about a mile to the west of Murrayfield Stadium which later became the home ground of Murrayfield Amateurs, who played in the East of Scotland League in the 50's and 60's.

The Strollers then had a tenancy

at Liberton before moving, in 1957, to the then new sports fields at the Civil Service Sports Club at Muirhouse. Muirhouse has one of the best playing surfaces in Edinburgh, and has been the Club's home ground since then. In 2000-01 the Club entered into a partnership with Tolloaks FC to develop youth football, with the Tolloaks youth teams taking on the name 'CS Strollers'.

With teams in the East of Scotland seniors and under 19s plus two amateur teams competing in the Lothian and Edinburgh Leagues the future is looking good as the club "strolls" into its second century

## Club Survey

ClubSportEdinburgh have recently completed a survey across all Edinburgh's sports clubs.

There was an excellent response with 92 clubs representing 31 different sports replying with many interesting topics raised.

The Executive Meeting have issued a full report with recommendations to consider the following action points:

a) Prepare and make formal representation to City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh Leisure and other agencies that control and manage facilities to advise on the collective opinions as to club needs in terms of facility access and affordable hire costs.

b) Organise a presentation workshop by agencies that are able to provide funding and financial / in kind support to sports clubs to identify what support is available and how to apply for funds.

c) In partnership with the Active Schools programme discuss

developing school to club links through a series of events across the city that would also offer opportunities to increase membership and strengthen links with local communities.

d) Organise a second seminar on increasing club membership.

e) Consider organising a "Festival of Sport" with clubs invited to open up regular training sessions and stage special events to attract new members, coaches and volunteers.

f) Prepare and publish a document advising on recruiting, retaining and rewarding volunteers.

Many thanks all clubs who completed the online survey and a full copy of the report is available at [www.clubsportedinburgh.org](http://www.clubsportedinburgh.org) on the "News" page. Over sixty clubs have now affiliated to ClubSportEdinburgh so if you have not already done so why not sign up now online through the above website.

## Funding Workshop

Following on from the recent club survey ClubSportEdinburgh is delighted to announce that a funding workshop has been arranged on Thursday 12th February 2009 at Meggetland Sport Complex and all clubs are invited to send two representatives. Organisations who have confirmed attendance include:

- Activcity
- Neighbourhood Partnership Grant Fund
- Coaching Edinburgh
- SportsMatch
- Performance Access Scheme
- SportsAssist
- Awards For All and Big Lottery/CashBack in the Communities (awaiting confirmation)

To book your place please email: [c.mackay@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:c.mackay@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## Fancy becoming a Lifeguard?

Earlier last year EUSU (Edinburgh University Sports Union) gave the go ahead for a new club to be set up within the university: Edinburgh University Lifesaving Club. This new club aims to offer both students and non-students alike the opportunity to develop valuable skills in the area of water safety, aquatic rescue, life-support and first-aid.

Using the RLSS (Royal Life Saving Society) guidelines, the club's members sit their Bronze Medallion Award, a nationally recognised qualification in the field of Lifesaving.

The club is hoping that, with enough interest and funding, they will soon be able to offer the full range of Lifesaving

Awards and have members enter various competitive lifesaving championships held amongst other university clubs up and down the country.

Having just completed their very first course, the club is proud to congratulate all members on successfully achieving the Bronze Medallion Awards, and is looking forward to repeated results in its second course, which is set to begin on the 22nd of January 2009.

There are still spaces available and the club urges anyone interested to email them on [s0784908@sms.ed.ac.uk](mailto:s0784908@sms.ed.ac.uk) - you never know, the skills you learn could save someone's life.

## Forthcoming Events

12 February	Clubs Funding Workshop	Meggetland
22 February	Cardinal Youth Volleyball Cup	Meadowbank
2/3 May	Magic Rugby League Weekend	Murrayfield
3 May	BUPA Great Edinburgh Run	City Wide
23/24	MayHeineken RU Cup Final	Murrayfield

For further advice and assistance on club development issues please contact:

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