

ROXBURGH SPORTS COUNCIL

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 10/11

The past year has been busy for Roxburgh Sports Council with over 47 clubs and individuals now affiliated. Many sportsmen and women along with clubs have applied for financial assistance. The Sports Council continues to provide financial assistance in the form of grants were distributed throughout Roxburghshire in a wide variety of sports which include Scottish Borders Council's target sports and others such as equestrian vaulting, curling, archery, and judo. No less than 44 grants were approved by Roxburgh Sports Council. This is a significant increase on the previous year which may indicate that

more sports people and clubs are more aware of Roxburgh Sports Council. Coaches continue to be supported by the scholarship scheme run by Sport Borders.

The main aim of the voluntary Sports Council is to support and enhance the community Sports Network in Roxburghshire, this can be anything from meeting a local club about their development aspirations to providing grant assistance or promoting events.

Our new website is now up and running and links to the other 3 Sports Councils and Sport Borders websites. This has

significantly reduced the volume of papers being sent through the postal system. All members are encouraged to communicate electronically.

This year the Sports Council continued to forge close links with Scottish Borders Council's Sports Development Unit and Active Schools network, the relationship is one which continues to improve every year. Active Schools are represented on the Executive Committee. This year the Sports Council assisted the Unit with the delivery of their Sports Programme, the highlights of this programme are listed below

Athletics – The Athletics community has had a busy year as they have worked very closely with the new team at Scottish Athletics Limited to complete and commence delivery of the Development plan. The plan will aim to look at Club Development, Establishment of Run, Jump Throw Clubs, Coach Education Courses, competition and the implementation of a Sports Hall Athletics Programme. Former Great Britain athlete and Chairman of Athletics Coaches Scotland, Brian Whittle, delivered a keynote speech and coaching workshop at the Borders Coaching Conference. Of the 9 athletes who attended this year's Sports Academy several made finals at the Scottish Age Groups Championships and no less than 9 Borders athletes represented Scotland in School, Junior or Senior International competition. The first Easter Star track programme was

held with nearly 50 participants getting involved along with local club coaches.

Badminton - This year the new team who make up the Borders Badminton Group produced their Development Plan for the sport. With badminton being one of the smaller sports, this proved challenging, but a comprehensive document and action plan will guide the sport over the next 3 years. Successful school tournaments at both Primary and Secondary age groups were staged early in 2010. 12 players had a great experience and received top quality coaching at the Sports Academy held at Galashiels in 2010. The first player from the sport was accepted on to the ASP in 2011. 2 other young players have also been selected for national junior squads. In partnership with Active Schools, a new participation centre was set up in Peebles with over 30 youngsters attending.

Cricket - In its final year, the Scottish Borders Junior Cricket Development Group's 2008 -2011 business plan has seen 2010 as its most successful year with more ups than downs for the regions cricket clubs: Gala and Melrose continue to make real strides in junior numbers and activity through links with their feeder schools despite very very different experiences with the senior side. Gala CC is definitely the form Borders Senior team whereas Melrose still struggles to achieve any success against the 'big guns' (Gala, Langholm, Kelso & St Boswells). Both clubs have embraced the Coaching ethic and have put more members through the various coaching courses than any of the other Borders clubs (Gala now have 7 Level1s and 2 level2s, Melrose has 4 Level1s and 2 Level2s). Whereas Gala continue to make the most of it's strong links with the Academy and feeder schools at Balmoral and Burgh

and has two separate training sessions for juniors to cope with the numbers, it is Melrose that has made the most inroads of any Border club establishing strong links and supported afterschool sessions at Earlston HS and Melrose Primary School; both of these schools have been at the forefront of schools cricket in the Borders with Earlston hosting it's own annual indoor tournament and Melrose reaching the National Primary Schools tournaments Finals Days in 2009 and 2010. Melrose fielded two team in the inaugural Borders Under-11s KO Cup and they contested the final.

Hawick & Wilton CC's junior development programme remains unique in the Borders with links to all of the town's primary schools, club delivered taster sessions in the schools and a Primary Schools League at the club in May/June with 100+ players involved each week.

Kelso CC and Manderston CC have developed a successful partnership through the junior sections (linking at Under-16s successfully with League and Cup titles in 2010; Kelso U-13s also won their league & cups); both club's senior sides have benefitted with at least 4 junior members making active contributions in all senior games.

Peebles County CC and Biggar have a similar relationship to the Kelso/Manderston one which allows teams at Under-11s, Under-13s and Under-16s to run.

St Boswells Under-13s had their best year finishing second in the Under-13s league – their highest ever position – and the club trebled its level 1 coaching provision and recruited a new Level 2 during 2010.

For Selkirk, in recent times the most successful of the Borders U-13s teams (winning three straight titles and previous E&LSC Team of the Year winners), it's been a case of a couple

of steps backwards before going forwards. However, with a new junior convenor, junior committee (a qualified coach running junior sessions) and links with several of the town's primary schools things are moving in the right direction.

Regional and National representation has not been higher in the Borders for many years; the 5 Area squads at U-11s, 13s, 15s, 17s and girls has produced 1 member of the Eastern Regional Academy, Alec Sim of Manderston CC (he won his first Scotland Cap at U-17s in 2010), 6 members of the Regional Development Centres, Tom Galbraith, Iain Sim and Richard Taylor (Manderston), Josh Irvine (Gala), Thomas Roberts (Kelso), Elliott Ruthven (St Boswells); Richard, Josh and Elliott have all had trials for Scotland U-15s. Rebecca Waldie (Kelso) is in her fourth and final year as an Under-17s internationalist (she now has 9 full Scotland caps), Joanna Dixon (Manderston), Caitlin Ormiston (Gala), Ellie Savage (Biggar), Eilidh Dickson (Kelso) are all members of the Scotland Under-17s training squad.

Cycling- The Cycling Development Project has been in operation now for 2 years and it has been a very successful programme to date, the Cycling Development strategy focussed on 5 themes including:

- Club Development
- Participation
- Coach Education and Volunteer Development
- Performance Development

62 hours of coaching was delivered to local schools and 4 new clubs were established in the area for juniors as a result of the programme.

14 new leaders and coaches were identified and trained across the Borders and many of accessed financial assistance from the Coaching scholarship scheme.

The Borders topped off an outstanding year with 2 British Champions Lucy

Grant U14 and Katy Winton U18 Mountain Biking Cross Country Champions, 2 riders also competed at World level including local Downhiller Lewis Buchanan and Grant Ferguson Cross Country Mountain Biking. It is anticipated that the cycling project will continue to develop and grow in partnership with Scottish Cycling, the Cycling Development Group and the Active Schools team.

Football – The Football Programme for 2011 shows no sign of slowing down, the World's Biggest Game and Our National Sport has continued with programmes from the Mini Kickers for the Under 5's, the extensive Primary School programme through Tesco Bank and McDonalds and Bank of Scotland Soccer 1 and 2 High School Programmes, which allow School Football to be played on a regular basis. The extra curricular activity of football centres, football clubs, Street Football and Midnight League programmes, provide a safe and friendly environment for children/youths to continue their football development. The School Holiday Football Courses, School Festival Programmes continue to be a success, with the SFA Coach Education Programme attracting record numbers.

Club success's have included Eyemouth JFC who were presented with the Scottish FA Standard Quality Mark Award at the Hibs v Ayr Utd Scottish cup game at Easter Road. They joined Ancrum JFC and Kelso JFC at the awards ceremony, who were there to receive their re-accreditation. Hawick Youth FC, Coldstream JFC, Duns JFC and Chirnside JFC are now all working towards their awards. A special mention must also go to Hawick High School Girls Senior football team who have made it through to the Schools Scottish Cup Final and two team members, Carly Noble and Lauren McKenzie who were recently presented with their national caps after representing the Scottish FA U15 Girls National squads. Information

on all activities throughout the Scottish Borders can be downloaded from the football web site at www.footballdevs.scotborders.org.uk

Hockey – Hockey goes from strength to strength, with the Participation Centres (8-12 years) continuing to grow in the 9 centres across the Borders. We held 6 Festivals across the Borders so their talent could be showcased. Three centres are also running across the Borders for U15's with 3 festivals also being held. P7 pupils from across all primary schools in the Borders participated in hockey festivals, organised by Active Schools, PE Specialists and the Development Officer, in the two weeks prior to the October break.

At the start of 2011 two selection days were held for development training squads. The first was for P7 and S1 pupils, with 62 attending and the second for S2 pupils, 46 attended. These squads of boys and girls, P7 and S1 – squad of 24 and S2 – squad of 18 are now training every Monday evening. Hockey currently has 2 girls playing for Scotland at Under 18 level and 4 in the under 16 Scotland squad. We have also trained 67 people as Hockey Leaders and 6 as Tutors to deliver the Hockey Leader courses. 7 people qualified to UKCC Level 1 last year, with this year's delivery being held at Tweedbank at the beginning of June. Hopefully, this will provide us with more fully qualified coaches.

We have been running 'Night Hockey' in Gala and Hawick as part of the Cashback for Communities scheme, with great success. Many of these young players have now joined the local Borders Fjordhus club. The Borders Fjordhus club which emerged as a new club only 3 years ago boasts a staggering membership of over 500. Has 7 junior centres (8-12 years), 3 Under 15 centres and runs 2 senior teams.

Our season ends with a Festival of Hockey at Tweedbank on 7th May from 9 am – 5 pm and an Awards Dinner, celebrating the talents of all Borders hockey players.

Swim Team Borders - The programme's regional performance squad, Swim Team Borders, enjoyed a successful 2009/2010 season winning 6 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals at Scottish national level and contesting dozens of finals at national level also. Every member of the squad qualified for the Scottish National Age Group Championships in April 2010. Performance squad members also claimed 16 medals (including 7 gold) and broke 3 records at East District level during the season. Numerous members of the team earned representative honours throughout the season with a team member representing Scotland at the WISE Schools International in March 2010, one member representing Great Britain and Scotland on an open water talent camp and racing tour of France, Italy & Suffolk in June 2010, three swimmers selected to represent Scotland at the UK School Games in September 2010 and three swimmers selected for the East District team for the National Inter-County Championships in October 2010. Four Swim Team Borders members qualified in 15 events for the British Age Group & Youth Championships held from 28 July to 7 August 2010. Unfortunately, one of the qualifiers, Scott Wilcox (Teviotdale ASC) was unable to attend, however, Lucy Hope (Kelso ASC), Jessica Wilcox (Teviotdale ASC) and Amy Fraser (Gala ASC) made the trip to Sheffield where they performed admirably.

This 2010/2011 season squad members have enjoyed the following success so far:

- The team placed 6th from more than 60 teams on the Scottish team point score at the Scottish National Age Group Championships, April

2011.

- Every team member competing at the 2011 Scottish National Age Group Championships made it to at least one final (11 team members).
- Representative Honours
- 3 WISE Schools International Scottish Team members (3 silver medals)
- 1 British/Scottish open water swimming representative
- British Open Level
- 1 qualifier
- British Age Group & Youth Level
- 5 qualifiers 15 events
- Scottish National Medals
- 8 gold, 4 silver, 4 bronze
- East District Medals
- 8 gold, 13 silver and 5 bronze
- East District Records
- 8 Age Group Records

Tennis - Tennis continues to improve in the Borders with clubs continuing to lead the way. The introduction of the new site at Galashiels Academy has become the base of the District Training and has been awarded Beacon status from the LTA. It is hoped a strong community programme can be created in the next few months at the courts. A new Tennis Development Working group is in the process of being set up with Peter Gordon at Tennis Scotland prepared to be part of the group. Hopefully the formation of this group will enable Tennis to complete a new Development plan for the Borders over the next four years and discuss ways to implement them. Earlston Tennis club has set up strong links with Active Schools and it is hoped other clubs will follow suit and encourage youngsters to get involved in playing Tennis.

Coach Education

Providing coach education opportunities for Borders coaches remains a major focus of the programme with Scottish Swimming now awarding CPD and attendance points to coaches attending regular Borders coaching forums and junior development squads. Individualised

club/coach support, regular club visits and ongoing coach mentoring opportunities are also provided through the Borders Performance Development Plan.

The Sports Council has continued to develop partnerships throughout the year with:-

The Scottish Association Of Local Sports Councils – This organisation is responsible for the strategic direction of local Sports Councils across the Country to which Roxburgh Sports Council are affiliated. An Annual Conference is held each year where Roxburgh is represented.

The James McLean Trust – The James McLean Trust hold the Annual Celebration of Sport Dinner which is where the Regions outstanding coaches and athletes performances are recognised at Regional Level on an Annual basis. The Local Sports Councils in the 4 areas each host their own District ceremonies and the winners proceed onto the Celebration dinner where an overall Borders Winner is selected.

The Winners of the Roxburgh Sports Council Awards are listed below.

Sports Personality of the Year

Ward Berry (Athletics)

Junior Sports Personality of the Year

Kirstin Maxwell (Orienteering)

Coach of the Year

Keith Lyall (Athletics)

Junior Coach of the Year

Kellie Grieve (Equestrian Vaulting)

Team of the Year Award

Kirstin Maxwell (Orienteering)

SALSC Service to Local Sport

Brian Lang (Kelso Cricket Club).

At the beginning of this report I referred to the Sports Council's most popular service is the Financial Assistance Schemes, there are 3 schemes on offer to member clubs, and they are all provided on a 50% match funding basis.

Capital Grants Scheme - Up to £5000 on a match funding basis for upgrading club houses or items of a capital nature with a life expectancy of over 10 years. Clubs can apply for a capital grant once every 2 years for a different project.

Sport Award Scheme – For Individual Athletes who are competing at a higher level.

The amounts for athletes vary for the level of competition
Club £300.00
Regional £500
National £750
International £1000

Revenue Grant Scheme – A scheme for clubs and organisation's to apply for Equipment Costs up to a maximum of £750; this can be applied for on an annual basis.

Grants Awarded

Jed Border Games

£290.00 was awarded to assist with purchase of a sports line marker to mark the track.

Hawick & Wilton Cricket Club

£5000.00 was awarded as a capital grant to assist with costs to lay a training wicket and purchase nets.

Hawick Bowling Club

£145.00 was to assist with costs to play in a national competition.

Ward Berry (Athletics)

£300.00 was awarded to assist with travelling and accommodation costs to attend athletics competition.

Wilton Bowling Club

The Committee agreed to award up to £323.50 to assist with costs to attend National Championships.

Kate Murray (Archery)

£1000.00 was provisionally awarded subject to receiving a more detailed breakdown of costs and confirmation of dates.

Robyn Jerdan (Highland Dancing)

£171.00 was awarded to assist with travelling and accommodation costs to attend dancing competition.

Minto Golf Club

£3000.00 was awarded as a capital grant to assist with costs to refurbish toilet areas. This is subject to securing other funding strands.

Dylan Paxton (Judo)

£300.00 was to assist with costs to compete in UK competitions.

Kirstin Maxwell (Orienteering)

£300.00 was to assist with training and competition costs.

Karen Maxwell (Orienteering)

£100.00 was to assist with training and competition costs.

Dennis Polczek (Bowling)

Awarded £122.00 was to assist with competition costs.

Stuart White (Bowling)

Awarded £122.00 was to assist with competition costs.

Marion Pearson (Bowling)

Awarded £50.00 was to assist with competition costs.

Caroline Hogarth (Bowling)

Awarded £95.00 was to assist with competition costs.

Eileen Thomson (Bowling)

Awarded £115.00 was to assist with competition costs.

Charlotte Stitt (Bowling)

Awarded £134.00 was to assist with competition costs.

Frances Spalding (Bowling)

Awarded £59.00 was to assist with competition costs.

Elizabeth Sykes (Bowling)

Awarded £75.00 was to assist with competition costs.

Athletes & Strength Gym

£628.00 was awarded to assist with purchase of strength training equipment.

Hawick Bowling Club

The Committee agreed to award up to £315.00 to assist with costs to attend bowling competition.

Kelso Border Games (Athletics)

£300.00 was awarded to assist with costs of staging annual games.

Fraser Young (Badminton)

£360.00 was awarded to assist with travelling and accommodation costs to attend badminton competition.

Linsey Young (Badminton)

£300.00 was awarded to assist with travelling and accommodation costs to attend badminton competition.

Lucy Hope (Swimming)

£750.00 was awarded to assist with travelling and accommodation costs to attend swimming training and competition.

Hawick Youth Football Club

The Committee agreed to award up to £750.00 to assist with costs to purchase equipment for the provision of youth football in Hawick.

Rebecca Abbott (Highland Dancing)

£250.00 was to assist with costs to attend highland dancing competition.

Ryan Brown (Swimming)

£500.00 was awarded to assist with travelling and accommodation costs to attend swimming training and competition.

Jed Thistle RFC

Awarded £650.00 was to assist with purchase of weightlifting equipment.

Scott Bowers (Pool)

£500.00 was awarded to assist with purchase of strength training equipment.

Louise Mercer

The Committee agreed to award up to £533.00 to assist with costs to attend athletics competition.

Alistair White (Bowling)

£122.00 was awarded to assist with expenses to attend a National bowling competition.

Lauren Mackenzie (Football)

It was agreed to award up to £300.00 or up to £500.00 if selected for National squads.

Carly Noble (Football)

It was agreed to award up to £300.00 or up to £500.00 if selected for National squads.

Jamie Collins (Football)

It was agreed to award up to £500.00 to attend training and games.

Gary Young (Judo)

It was agreed to award up to £300.00 to attend training and competition.

Daniella Page (Eventing)

Awarded up to £500.00 to attend equestrian events throughout the year.

Jim Buchanan (Curling)

The Committee agreed to award £467.00 as the curling team represented Roxburgh in the SALSC competition.

Ward Berry (Athletics)

Awarded up to £509.50 to attend World Transplant Games.

Integrated Sports Trust - Scottish Borders Councils Sport agreed on the 24th March on the that the proposed Merger between the Council's Sports Services and Border Sport and Leisure Trust would proceed and be implemented by the 21st July 2011

Recommendations within the report included:

Outdoor Education will remain in the Council, later in the year the facilities will be looked into further as to how BSLT could assist with the operation of these facilities

Sports Development and Active Schools will transfer

A monitoring officer will remain within the Council

Leases will be transferred for Queens Centre, Volunteer Hall and the Sports Development Officer

£250,000 will be made available for the development of facilities.

The Sports Council Services will remain unaffected by the transfer and it is anticipated that the Secretarial and support services will remain unaffected, the Annual Grants will be transferred from Scottish Borders Council to Border Sport and Leisure Trust and then distributed on a per head off population basis.

Scottish Borders Facility Strategy - The Sports Council recently attended the Borders Sports facilities conference staged on the 6th March at Heriot Watt University in Galashiels, the day had been chaired by David Ferguson the Vice Chairman of the Border Sport and Leisure Trust, presentations

were delivered by David Hume the Chief Executive of Scottish Borders Council and Mr Stuart Harris the Chief Executive from sportscotland.

Kit Campbell Associates had been commissioned to produce a facilities strategy, the purpose of the strategy was to look at the requirements for the area rather than the negative aspects of the report relating to the closure of facilities. After the involved a series of workshops looking at what individual sports required and then in the afternoon what the 4 Sports Council areas required.

A summary of the findings from the Consultation day will be produced weeks and then an overall facilities strategy will be devised, the strategy

is required for forward planning and financial planning, the report will also help ascertain what the priorities are where they should be sited, the report also provides evidence of need which is essential when trying to access Big Lottery Funding.

One of the biggest challenges is access to the school estate at night and during the school holiday periods, new and innovative ways are to be looked at to open the school facilities.

It would be remiss of me not to thank my colleagues on the Executive committee for their support and voluntary contribution throughout the year and in particular the Chairman, David Laing and Treasurer Diane Cockburn. Scottish Borders Council

should also be thanked for their continued support in providing the funding for Sports Councils to operate.

Next year there will be new challenges for everyone whether on the field of play or for the sports administrators. However, I'm sure that everyone involved in Roxburghshire sport will continue to deliver, perform and provide many opportunities at all levels in their chosen sport during the next 12 months.

Neil Renton
Secretary