



University of Stirling Sports Union



ISSUE 3—16 NOVEMBER 2009

## Welcome to this week's edition of the Sports Union e-newsletter

Despite the monsoon season hitting Scotland this week, Stirling's fixtures went ahead without too many call-offs.

Last Wednesday provided the usual mixed bag of results with Stirling performing reasonably well considering the plethora of away fixtures. Both Men's and Women's basketball teams had good victories in their respective leagues while a barrage of goals resulted in high scoring encounters for our football teams.



On Wednesday, I was fortunate enough to get a few hours out of the office and found myself drafted in as Assistant Manager, Linesman, 4<sup>th</sup> Substitute and Spongeman for the football team alongside Jason Atkins. Backed by Del Boy and Rodney on the touchline., the team went on to bombard the Edinburgh goal but the visitors held out for an undeserved draw. As a result, Atkins and MacDonald maintained their 100% managerial record with Manager Stevie Burchill taking over the reigns while Stirling were leading 1-0. Former Gillingham striker Jacob Arnold Smith was so impressed with his caretaker manager, he referred to me as Sven (managerial skills comparison of course!!)

Further afield, Stirling graduate Colin Fleming picked up his second ATP Tour doubles title with victory in the St Petersburg Open with partner Ken Skupski. Keeping with the tennis, there is an article on Stirling's Coach Euan McGinn who is in the process of setting up the 'Ryder Cup of tennis'.

This Wednesday is littered with more away fixtures ensuring a busy past week for Gillian, however, there are a number of important fixtures taking place around campus this week. Both our Men's and Women's Lacrosse teams take on tough opposition Edinburgh at the Airthrey pitches, while the Tennis 2<sup>nd</sup> team look to maintain their 100% start to the season against title contenders Glasgow.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Sports Union e-newsletter and please provide us with any feedback you have. In order to keep it going, we need your contributions. Please see below to find out how to write for the SU e-newsletter.

## This week's Highlights

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C'mon Stirling!

**Jamie MacDonald**  
President

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## Fleming in form with second ATP doubles win

A second ATP Tour win in as many months has seen Stirling graduate **Colin Fleming** soar up the rankings. Fleming, who graduated from Scotland's University for Sporting Excellence in 2007, and doubles partner Ken Skupski held their nerve to win the St Petersburg Open on Sunday. The victory, completed courtesy of a thrilling tie break finale against French pairing Jeremy Chardy and Richard Gasquet 2-6, 7-5, 10-4, has seen the Linlithgow star jump 14 places up to 53 in the ATP World Tour doubles rankings. It also meant a cheque for \$38,250 – about £23,500 - and more main draw opportunities in 2010, including probable entry to the Australian Open from January 18, one of the big four Grand Slam events.

It has been a fantastic Autumn for team 'Flemski' as Fleming and his Liverpoolian team-mate are affectionately known. Following the disappointment of being selected for, then unused during the Davis Cup defeat to Poland, Fleming excelled in France.

Team Flemski won their first ever ATP Tour event at the end of September, taking the men's doubles title in Metz. Then, in October, they saw off the challenge of two-times Queen's Club finalist



Sebastian Grosjean and doubles partner Olivier Patience in the Orleans Challenge Tour final. But the Russian result is the biggest yet for the 25-year-old, who graduated from the University of Stirling with first class honours in Economics and Finance. He and Skupski's combined determination shone through as the pair faced deciding tie-breaks in three out of four matches. In round one, a 10-7 tie-break win was enough to end the challenge of Rohan Bopanna and 2008 St Petersburg doubles winner Travis Parrot. Singles finalist Horacio Zaballos and Pablo Cuevas, both ranked in the top 50 at singles, fell to Flemski 7-6, 2-6, 10-8. The semi-final proved slightly more straightforward, Flemski winning 7-6, 6-4 against the Israeli pairing Jonathan Erlich and Andy Ram, who is ranked in the top 10 at doubles.

Fleming touched down at Aberdeen airport today (Monday), but while he may squeeze in a practice session at Stirling's on-campus **Gannochy National Tennis Centre**, he won't be home for long. Next up is the Jersey-2 Challenger Tour event, starting on Monday November 9, where he hopes to compete in both singles and doubles.

University of Stirling High Performance Coach **Euan McGinn**, who has worked with Colin since the age of 16, said: "I'm delighted for Colin and Ken. They have come up against some really talented players and come out on top. To get back-to-back ATP Tour wins proves they are world-class competitors, capable of playing at that level consistently. And to hold their nerve in the tie-breaks shows they have the energy levels and drive to climb even higher up the rankings."

The Gannochy National Tennis Centre is not only being used for practice purposes, but will play host to the **Scottish Grand Prix** from November 19-22. Featuring several senior internationalists, the 64 men's draw and 32 women's draw event is open to the public, with free entry.

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**Seven steps to become a Stirling Superstar**

## Seven steps to become a Stirling Superstar

Ever fancied running 10k, but lacked the motivation? Or do you reckon your hot heels can't be matched? Either way, a series of sporting challenges is sure to get the Stirling community active.

The Sports Development Service has just launched Stirling Superstars, seven monthly challenges open to everyone.

From running to rowing and swimming to strength, it is all about challenging the local community, students and staff to try a range of healthy activities and earn points towards superstar status.

And with a special team competition, monthly prizes and the chance to be crowned the champion, Stirling Superstars has something for everyone. Starting in November with an optional 5k or 10k run in conjunction with the RNLI's Reindeer Run, there is a different on-campus activity each month.

Whether community, 50+, staff, student or a team, entrants select which category they fall into and can then pick and choose which events they compete in, with more participation meaning more points.

Finish first in your category and collect 100 points, but no matter the result, you'll be sent regular updates on your own standing allowing you to monitor the progress first hand.

Many of the events last the whole month, allowing for plenty of time to put in the practice in advance.

Stirling Superstars organiser, Graduate Assistant Kerry MacPhee said: "Whether you want to compete for the individual title, battle it out to be the best team or just keep physically active with a new challenge in the gym, Stirling Superstars has something for every age and sporting level.

"It may seem scary to get yourself get involved in mass participation events, but join with friends, be brave and embrace a new challenge – you can be a superstar!"

The full list of events and dates are:

- November 29 - Reindeer Run
- December – Strength Challenge
- January – Swim Accumulator
- February – Rowing Challenge
- March – Flexibility, Reaction Time and Motor Skills Challenge
- April – Sprint Challenge
- May 5 – Dumyat Hill Race



Stirling Superstars is free to enter for all Sports Centre members and just £10 for non-members. For an entry form or for more information, see [www.sports.stir.ac.uk/superstars](http://www.sports.stir.ac.uk/superstars)

## Stirling Coach creates 'Ryder Cup' of tennis



The first ever cross-Atlantic University tennis competition – masterminded by Stirling tennis coach Euan McGinn – is gearing up for game on in 2010.

University of Stirling High Performance coach McGinn and Dublin City University Head Coach Jamie Pilkington have combined forces with their American counterparts to create a tennis competition pitting European students against the best America has to offer.

Much like the format of golf's Ryder Cup, European University tennis scholars will play singles and doubles matches against the top American Collegiate players, whose alumni include John McEnroe and current ATP top



versity tennis scholars will play singles and doubles matches against the top American Collegiate players, whose alumni include John McEnroe and current ATP top 50 singles player James Blake.

This transatlantic clash has been backed by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA), Tennis Europe and the United States Tennis Association (USTA).

And now with the LTA agreeing to host the event on its clay courts at the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton, the competition is scheduled for next August provided a sponsor can be secured.

In 2007, McGinn and Pilkington formed the European Collegiate Tennis Association (ECTA) to enable elite European University tennis players the opportunity to compete against one another. Now they have set their sights on expansion.

McGinn, a former All-American player at the University of Arkansas, said: "We are really looking forward to testing ourselves against the best players in America. It is the next step in the development of European University tennis, having successfully established ECTA.

"It provides European players with the opportunity to stay in Europe, get a first class education and experience new cultures through tennis. Until now relatively little has been done to help European players continue their development past the age of 18, despite the fact the average age of a top 100 male player is 26."

Before the Stirling team can think about any competitive leap across the pond, the team from Scotland's University for Sporting Excellence face top quality opposition in the European League finals which start on Friday (13 November).

Having qualified from the French group courtesy of victories against Rouen II and Leuven from Belgium, Stirling's team of Jordan McCulloch, Nick Hatchett, Joe Gill, Cameron Malik and James Ickringill will come up against world-ranked opponents in the final draw at Gosling Tennis Centre in London.

The other competing Universities are: Loughborough, Manchester and Leeds Met, Rouen, Dublin, Pula and Zagreb. As well as eight men's teams, the competition also includes eight women's teams competing in a knockout format and these will double to 32 and 16 respectively for the 2010 event.

McGinn added: "It is a great opportunity for the Stirling guys to take on some of the best University teams in Europe, providing them with an extra competitive opportunity against their peers. University tennis is quite special as it is a team event and everyone is going through the same circumstances, combining tennis and education."

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## Stirling romp to Futsal success on debut

Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, 7am, 9 members of the ladies football team travelled down to Middlesbrough for our debut games in the BUCS tournament. Having never played a futsal game before, this was set to be a memorable day regardless of the results. Having travelled down on the most luxurious of busses and had a good sleep we felt relatively prepared for the upcoming games. After a quick run through of the rules by the referee beside the pitch the first game got underway against Sunderland University.

Stirling conceded the first of the 9 goals but fought back within a minute to equalise, and scored the next goal to take the lead. This lead was maintained throughout the rest of the game with Stirling coming out victorious at the end of the 20 minutes with a 5-4 win.

The second game proved to be a more intense match with the two teams being relatively evenly matched from the start. Nottingham University seemed to have their fair share of

The second game proved to be a more intense match with the two teams being relatively evenly matched from the start. Nottingham University seemed to have their fair share of talented players, who took the lead with two early goals inside the first half. Stirling stepped up to the challenge replying with 2 goals of their own, however conceded another one before half time. Half time finished 3-2 to Nottingham.

The second half started with both teams as evenly matched as in the first with 7 minutes of battling and no more goals to add to the scoresheet. However this was all to change after a



60 second time out in which Stirling recuperated and came out fighting scoring from a corner immediately after the time out. The game then seemed destined for a draw inside the last minute of the game until with 20 seconds remaining Stirling somehow found the back of the net with a sliding shot to seal the game 4-3.

Undoubtedly the team spirit and the effort levels throughout the games were a direct factor in

our success. Everybody played together as a team and we were worthy winners at the end of the day. Roll on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December for the next games in our group... Watch this space! J

## Results

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Sport	Team	H/A	Opposition	Result
Basketball	Men's 1st	A	St Andrews	71-64
Basketball	Women's 2nds	H	Glasgow	PP
Basketball	Women's 1st	A	Dundee	52-50
Football	Men's 4th	A	WoS	PP
Football	Men's 1st	H	Edinburgh	2-2
Football	Men's 2nd	A	Strathclyde	4-5
Football	Men's 3rd	H	RGU	5-5
Football	Women's 1st	A	Napier	1-5
Hockey	Women's 1st	A	St Andrews	8-0
Hockey	Women's 2nd	H	Edinburgh	0-8
Hockey	Men's 2nd	H	Edinburgh	
Rugby Union	Men's 1st	H	Heriot-Watt	5-37
Rugby Union	Women's 1st	A	St Andrews	17-42
Rugby Union	Men's 2nd	A	Edinburgh	5-18
Swimming	1st	A	Dundee	
Table Tennis	Men's 1st	A	Heriot-Watt	5-12
Tennis	Men's 2nd	A	Edinburgh	PP
Tennis	Men's 1st	H	Leeds Met	0-10
Tennis	Women's 1st	H	Strathclyde	8-2
Tennis	Men's 3rd	A	Aberdeen	10-0

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November

Tennis	Men's 3rd	A	Aberdeen	10-0
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### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November

Badminton	Mixed 1st	A	WoS
Netball	2nd	A	Glasgow
Netball	3rd	A	WoS

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November

Golf	1st	A	St Andrews
Golf	2nd	A	St Andrews
Golf	3rd	A	Aberdeen
Water Polo	Men's 1st	A	RGU

\*\*\*Stirling score comes first\*\*\*

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## Fixtures

### Wednesday 11th November

Sport	Team	H/A	Opposition	Time
Basketball	Men's 1st	A	Strathclyde	13:00
Basketball	Women's 2nds	H	Glasgow	00:00
Basketball	Women's 1st	A	Strathclyde	13:00
Basketball	Men's 2nd	A	QMU	00:00
Football	Men's 4th	A	Abertay	14:00
Football	Men's 1st	A	Heriot-Watt	14:00
Football	Women's 1st	A	RGU	14:00
Football	Men's 3rd	A	Glasgow	
Football	Men's 2nd	A	Edinburgh	14:00
Hockey	Women's 1st	A	Glasgow	13:00
Hockey	Men's 2nd	H	Napier	15:00
Hockey	Men's 1st	A	Heriot-Watt	12:45
Lacrosse	Men's 1st	H	Edinburgh	14:00
Lacrosse	Women's 1st	H	Edinburgh	12:00
Rugby Union	Men's 1st	A	Edinburgh	14:00
Rugby Union	Men's 2nd	A	Aberdeen	13:00
Swimming	1st	A	Glasgow Caley	15:00
Table Tennis	Men's 1st	H	Edinburgh	14:00
Tennis	Men's 2nd	H	Glasgow	11:00
Tennis	Men's 3rd	A	RGU	14:00
Tennis	Men's 1st	A	Manchester	14:00
Tennis	Women's 1st	A	University	12:00
Tennis	Men's 4th	H	Napier	12:30

### Saturday 14th November

Badminton	Mixed 1st	A	Napier	14:00
Netball	2nd	A	Heriot-Watt	16:00
Netball	1st	A	WoS	11:00
Netball	3rd	H	Heriot-Watt	13:00

### Sunday 15th November

Golf	2nd	H	Abertay	00:00
Golf	3rd	H	Glasgow Cale	00:00
Golf	1st	A	Dundee	12:00
Volleyball	Women's 1st	H	Edinburgh	13:00
Volleyball	Men's 1st	H	Edinburgh	13:00

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**Write for the SU Newsletter**

## Write for the SU Newsletter

In order to keep the weekly SU e-newsletter running, we need contributions from you guys. We are seeking match reports, news stories, interviews and any other contributions you can offer.

Please send all correspondence to [sports.union@stir.ac.uk](mailto:sports.union@stir.ac.uk).

## This week in the Union...

### LIVE SPORT

Southampton v Charlton on Wednesday  
England Legends v World XI on Thursday  
Northern Ireland v Germany U21 on Friday

### Saturday

Huddersfield Town v Wycombe Wanderers  
Wales v Scotland  
Brazil v England or Northern Ireland v Serbia  
Republic of Ireland v France

Southampton v Brighton on Sunday

Studio Themed Food Nights from 5pm to 8pm Mon-Fri

Glow - Ladies Night on Wednesday - free entry for Ladies and only £1 for the gents - on until 2am!

Elections/Referendum taking place on Monday/Tuesday - vote online via the portal.



University of Stirling Sports Union

